



How Can I help My Child with Reading? Tips for Families of English Language Learners

Parents and caregivers are important partners in helping their children succeed in school. We know that students do much better in school if parents are involved. You are your child's first and most important teacher. Here are some tips and resources that can help you as you support your child in school.

Talk and Read to your child in your home language:

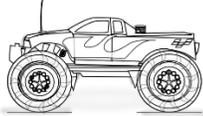
Children who have a foundation in their home language will learn English better than children who stop learning their home language. Children who can read letters in their home language understand the *process of reading*, so when they begin to learn English letters, sounds and words, they have an advantage. Try reading street signs in both languages, play word games in which your child replaces beginning sounds to make new, funny words, label things around your home.

Make sure to talk often in both languages– tell them about your day, ask them about their day, discuss something in the news, and ask about their opinions. Tell stories in your home language, sing or play songs to your child, share proverbs and recite poems. Here are some questions you might want to ask in home language and/or English:

What did you notice about ...	What would you do if ...
What do you wonder...	What would happen if ...
What else could you have done ...	How do you know that?

Build Your Child's Vocabulary:

Did you know that the number of words a child knows when entering school can predict future success? When introducing new words, keep the following helpful hints in mind. Create a personal dictionary in where you can write the new words in English and your home language. Encourage your child to draw a picture as an example. Over the next few days, keep using each new vocabulary word in conversations as much as possible

English	Home Language	Picture
Enormous - something is really, really big	ضخم	 The wheels are enormous .

Read to your child everyday:

Try to read with your child everyday – your whole family can help. Dads, moms, aunts, uncles, brothers & sisters, caregivers, and friends can all be a part of the daily routine. You are your child’s most important reading role model, so make sure your child sees you reading and writing for your own purposes. Try these ideas:

- Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child.
- Find out what your child is passionate about and learn as much as you can about this topic.
- Go to the library together and get a library card.
- Read books and ask questions in your home language– if concepts are understood in the home language they can be easily transferred to English.

Make it Fun!

- Encourage your child to draw or paint characters and scenarios. Talk about the idea that “every picture tells a story.”
- Reread your child’s favourite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them.
- Use different voices for different characters in a story.
- Use your child’s name instead of a character’s name whenever it appears in the story.
- Act out the story with your child.
- Co-create a different ending for the story.

References:

Reading and Writing with your Child, K-6, A Parent Guide

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideLit.html>

Colorin Colorado

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/node/27/>

On-line Resources:

Learning & Language games:	Parent Guides:	Free Dual Language:
<p>TVOKids https://tvokids.com/school-age</p> <p>Learning Chocolate: http://www.learningchocolate.com/</p> <p>Hamilton Public Library: www.hpl.ca</p>	<p>Reading and Writing with your Child, K-6, A Parent Guide http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideLit.html</p> <p>Colorin Colorado: multi-lingual resources for families http://www.colorincolorado.org/reading-tip-sheets-parents</p>	<p>Unite for Literacy http://www.uniteforliteracy.com/</p> <p>World Stories Dual Language Books: http://worldstories.org.uk/</p> <p>On-line Picture Dictionary: http://www.dicts.info/picture-dictionary.php?group=&language=arabic</p>