

First-Grade Parent Tips



- ✚ Don't leave home without a book, especially if you are going somewhere that may require waiting time such as a doctor visit or a car ride. Your child's teacher will help your child choose books that are "just right" for your child.
- ✚ You can play word games while waiting in line at the grocery store or in the car. "If I say s-a-t, what is the word? Sat. Can you change the sss to ppp? What is that word? Pat." "Can you think of a word that rhymes with top? Hop, stop, pop."
- ✚ Encourage your child to talk about his/her day, a story the teacher read, what he/she did at recess, or teach you a song the class sang. Language is important. You might drop some interesting words into the conversation.
- ✚ Rereading is great, whether you or your child are reading. Children have favorite books they like to hear again and again. When children are reading on their own, rereading is especially important. It helps students to read more accurately and to become more fluent.
- ✚ Ask your child questions about the story you've read. "How does the character feel? How do you know? Why do you think he did that?" Your child is beginning to dig deeper into the story.
- ✚ You might want to stop and ask what your child thinks will happen next. "Did the author give us any clues? Let's read to find out if that is what happens."
- ✚ When you are reading aloud to your child, discuss what happens in a story. Help your child retell it. If it is a nonfiction book, think about what might be something new learned from this book and what was already known. We know nonfiction books have information in them and fiction books tell a story with characters and a setting and usually a problem and solution. That's how we can tell what genre (fiction – made up, or nonfiction – real information) the book is.
- ✚ Your child may be able to make a connection to the story. "Have you ever felt like ___ in the story? Did you ever have a problem like ___ in the story? Tell me about it."
- ✚ When your child is reading, be patient. Some words may be unfamiliar and your child may try to sound out a word. "Look closely at the first letter. How does this word begin? We can think about what word might fit here." Sometimes children just make a wild guess. You might then gently point out letters that were ignored.
- ✚ Take turns reading. "I read to you, you read to me." Any time you are reading with or to your child will be a special time.
- ✚ We want to give your child lots of reading experiences.