



Escambia County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ESCAMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT
30 EAST TEXAR DRIVE
PENSACOLA, FL. 32503
KEITH LEONARD, SUPERINTENDENT
August 10, 2023

Dear Families,

Reading is like any other skill; the more you do it, the better you get. Students who read the most, read the best! Your teacher suggests the following activities for you to help your child be a better reader:

- Read with your child, or have your child read to you every day. Build up to thirty minutes of reading. You might have some quiet family reading time. When your children see you read, then they will be encouraged to read too.
- Play games that help your child focus on the individual sounds of words. Play “I Spy” by looking for things that start with a sound such as /b/. Find words with 3 or 4 letters and tap out each sound as you stretch out the sounds: /m/a/p/ or /s/o/ng/. Clap out the syllables in words: foot (clap)-ball (clap)
- Did you know that the spelling lists sent home are also phonics pattern practice? Have your child “say and spell” while paying attention to the sounds. You can practice writing out words in the air or in sand as you say them. Movement and touch can help your student make better connections.
- Find words with prefixes and suffixes on packaging or in your reading and ask your child to find the prefixes (such as *re*, *pre*, *un*, *mis*, *sub*) and suffixes (such as *ous*, *ing*, *ion*, *ness*, *ive*). Then ask your child to find the base word. Write the base words on cards and the prefixes and suffixes on other cards. Mix them up and see how many words you can make. Check out www.merriam-webster.com for help.
- Improve fluency by reading passages several times. Read together until your child can read them smoothly. Help your child pronounce words she doesn’t know. When you do, go back to the beginning of the sentence and ask your child to read the whole sentence again. You can also read a few lines and then have your child echo back. Another technique is for you to read one page or paragraph, and then have your child read the next one.
- Help your child remember the meanings of vocabulary words by making up a rhyme, saying, or gesture. Acting out words can help a student visualize the meaning later.
- As you read with your child, or your child reads to you, stop at the end of a section and ask, “What was that mostly about?” If your student can’t retell it from memory, encourage him or her to go back and reread. Retelling most of the important details is a sign of comprehension.
- When you read together, look for patterns and repetitions of words or ideas. Repeated ideas show importance and lead to understanding central idea or theme. Repetition is also one way writers build an explanation. Does the author explain how something happens? Look for cause and effect. Does the author show how things are alike or how they are different? Look for compare and contrast. Does the author present a problem and a solution? Seeing these connections builds comprehension.

For the Florida Department of Education Read-at-Home Plan and other resources, visit the ECPS web site ELA family page: <https://bit.ly/ECPSFamily>

Sincerely,

Melissa G. Marsh

English Language Arts Specialist

