

# Reading Checklist for Parents

Reading with your child is one of the best ways to help them succeed in school. The checklist below gives you ideas that will help you create an environment at home that supports learning through reading.

Reading at Home	Already do this!	I'll try
I read to my child almost every day (even older children like to be read to).		
I read to my child in my native language.		
I talk to my child about reading.		
I ask questions about what we are reading, "why," "how" and "what do you think" questions.		
I encourage my child to learn new words.		
I use audiotapes and books that "read" by pushing the button as an alternate way for my child to participate in reading.		
I use pictures of daily events to interact with a non-verbal child. For example, "show me a picture of your favorite activity you did in school today."		
We compare what we are reading about to what is happening in my child's world.		
I take my child to the library.		
My child has a library card and I help him use it.		
If I am not comfortable reading books in English, I can still use the pictures to tell the story.		
My child has some easy books at home that he can read by himself.		
My child has some difficult books at home that I help her read.		
My child has some books at home about things that interest him.		
My child sees me read (newspapers, magazine, books, labels, signs, etc.) every day.		
I talk to my child about what we see in our life; at stores, on the bus, at home, etc		
I tell stories to my child; and sometimes he tells me stories.		
My child has access to paper and crayons, pencils or markers for writing and drawing.		
My child has a well-lit, quiet area with a table or flat surface for play and work.		
My young child has a special place to snuggle and read.		
I show my child that reading is connected to what I do on my job, in shopping, cooking, hobbies, etc.		
There is a time each day when the TV is turned off so that my child can read.		

<b>Connecting Home and School</b>	<b>Already do this!</b>	<b>I'll try</b>
I encourage my child to use computers, either in school at home, or at the library.		
I encourage my child to tell me about his school day, and about what he is learning.		
I allow my child to teach me about what she has learned in school, rather than always being the one who "knows it all".		
I talk to my child about his school and social time almost every day.		
I know the names of my child's closet friends.		
If needed I make a "picture address book" with pictures of my child's classmates and teachers and then ask my child to "point to someone you played with today," or to "point to someone you would like to invite over."		
I let my child know that I expect him to work hard in school.		
I let my child know that I value his work in school, and that I value school in general.		
I participate in school programs and in my child's extracurricular activities.		
I work at showing my child how much I appreciate his effort in school and try not to compare him to other children.		
If I am not receiving information on a regular basis about school programs and activities, including clubs and activities that are available after school, I ask to be kept informed and try to participate.		

**Notes:**

Adapted from Literacy Resource Kit for Parents: Families Helping children Become Better Readers. Tennessee State Improvement Grant and Pages Ahead Literacy Program, [www.pageahead.org](http://www.pageahead.org)

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