QUESTIONS
Families Can Ask About Reading & Writing

Ask your child’s teacher(s) the following questions. Use the boxes provided to record their answers. **Remember:** Always ask for an explanation of anything that you do not understand.

In my child’s grade, what is the class going to learn in literacy? What is the curriculum?

What time of the day and for how long does my child receive reading instruction?

What does my child’s reading instruction look like? (Centers, guided reading, pull out, direct instruction, etc.) Please explain.

How is my child performing compared to grade-level expectations?

In what areas does he/she need to improve?

What specific things are you doing in the classroom to help my child improve in reading? (such as: provide support by a reading specialist, provide different materials, provide instruction in small groups that targets my child’s particular weaknesses or provide extra time to practice reading during the day)

What strategies are you using to improve/build my child’s vocabulary?
What can I do at home to help my child read better? (For example: Can you suggest specific activities that we can do, materials that I may borrow, available website supports or workshops that I can attend?)

What would you like to know about our family’s literacy routines and habits, and the types of literacy my child demonstrates at home?

What supports are used in the classroom to promote accurate spelling? Can I use these at home? If not, are there other supports that will work at home?

What types of strategies are used to support my child’s primary language?

How often does my child write each day in the classroom? Can you tell me what writing strategies you are teaching my child so that I can prompt him to use them when he writes at home?

What strategies are you teaching my child to help her work through difficult sounds or words when reading?

Is my child having trouble understanding what she reads? If so what do you do to help her understand that material?

What kinds of activities can we do before and after my child reads to help her understand the information?

All information and support provided at no cost to families!

For more information, please contact:
WI Family Assistance Center for Education, Training, & Support
600 W. Virginia St., Suite 501 | Milwaukee, WI 53204
phone: 877-374-0511 | website: www.wifacets.org

Handout based on material from ECAC, the North Carolina Parent Center