

# Make Reading at Home Meaningful

## How To Read A Book With Your Child

Research shows that reading to children at home promotes language acquisition and is linked with literacy development, and later on, with achievement in reading comprehension and overall success in school. This resource will explain how you can foster your child's success and enjoyment of reading by reading at home with your child on a regular basis.

Here at GSD, students receive a lot of instruction in reading — reading strategies, vocabulary instruction, and comprehension strategies — during their regular Reading classes. However, students who have been identified as needing extra support are placed in a **Rtl (Response to Intervention)** group. Students are placed in Rtl based on performance on the STAR Reading Assessment (an on-line diagnostic assessment) as well as a basic reading inventory administered by a student's classroom teacher. Here at GSD, we have four tiers (levels) of Response to Intervention (Rtl):

- **Tier 1:** Regular classroom instruction that all students receive.
- **Tier 2:** An additional one hour (Monday -Thursday) of Reading instruction in addition to the regular classroom instruction.
- **Tier 3:** An additional 30 minutes of reading instruction in addition to Tier 1 and Tier 2.
- **Tier 4:** Students who receive alternative instruction via access classes.

Students are re-assessed on a regular basis throughout the school year to determine progress and movement from one tier to another. You can help your child to move to a different tier or to "test out" of Rtl by reading with your child at home on a regular basis. On this page, you'll find step by step instructions on how to participate in reading aloud of a book with your child.

### 1. Select a Book.

*Choose a book that has some words your child knows as well as some that he/she doesn't know. This could be a library book or a book brought home from school. If you need help with choosing books for your child, contact your child's teacher for information about instructional reading level.*

### 2. Introduce Your Child to the Story.

*First, look through the book. Take a few minutes to discuss the pictures in the book. Identify colors, name types of animals, describe the people in the pictures. Then, glance through the story text and identify any words that your child may not know and write them down.*

### 3. Build Basic Background Information.

- **Ask your child what they think will happen** in the story based on the cover, title, summary or book jacket.
- **Relate elements of the story to the child's life.** For example, if there is a picture of a dog on the cover, and your family has a dog, discuss your family dog.
- **Talk about the genre** (fiction, non-fiction, mystery, fantasy, science-fiction, etc.).
- **Build background knowledge** through discussion, videos, and photos. For example, if you are reading a text about a captain in the Air Force, discuss the rank "captain", the different branches of the military, the responsibilities of the Air Force. Use Google or YouTube to find video and pictures of a "captain."

### 4. Work with Unfamiliar Words.

*Remember the list of unfamiliar words you made in Step 2. Take some time and try the following steps. Not only will it build their vocabulary, but yours as well.*

- Fingerspell the word.
- Find a picture of the word.
- Try working together to write a sentence using the word.
- Find the word in the story.
- Learn the sign for the word.
- Fingerspell the word again.

### 5. Begin Reading the Story.

- Sign the story to your child to the best of your ability.*
- Encourage your child to follow along as you read.*

### 6. Revisit the Story.

*Talk about what happened in the story. Then ask the questions who, what, when, where and why to make sure your child understood the story.*

Sharing a book with your child in this way will not only give you an opportunity to read with your child but will also lead to better understanding and success for your child in his/her Rtl group. The instructions listed above are similar to the steps that your child's teacher uses to read aloud to your child in class. Following the instructions will allow you to play a direct role in your child's reading success. Should you need further assistance or have questions, feel free to contact your child's teacher.