



◆ Home Connection Letter

Dear Family:

Our goal is to help your child become a better reader. One way you can help is to practice reading with your child as often as possible. We will be sending books home from school, and we encourage you to read them together and talk about them. Below are a few suggestions for reading with your child:

- Look at the book together before you read. Ask your child how it relates to what he or she is learning in school.
- Let your child read to you.
- If your child comes to an unfamiliar word while reading, tell him or her the word. If you encounter the word again, ask whether your child knows it this time. If he or she does not, you can help your child sound it out, or you can just say the word aloud and continue the reading.
- Give your child a lot of praise for finishing a book and reading well.
- Talk about the book when your child has finished reading. If you are not sure how to do this, ask any of the following questions:

How did you like the book? Why do you feel that way?

What happened first in the story? What happened next? What happened last?

How do you think the character felt about _____?

Does the story remind you of something that has happened to you?

We will be sending word flash cards home for practice. These flash cards contain the easier 110 words from the Dolch 220 Basic Sight Vocabulary and the 95 Common Nouns. You can drill your child on these or use the cards to play games. When you see these words in your child's books, you can point them out together. Encourage your child to read everything he or she sees—even when you do not have a book handy. Reading cereal boxes, menus, billboards, and store signs are all good practice. You can even turn on the closed-captioning on your television to create another reading opportunity.

Thank you for your help, and please feel free to ask any questions.

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- Give a lot of praise for finishing a book and reading well.
- Talk about the book when your child has finished reading. If you are not sure how to do this, ask any of the following questions:

Do any of the characters in the story remind you of someone you know?

What were the problems in the story, and how were they solved?

Did the ending surprise you? Why?

Did the story tell about events that could happen in real life (reality), or did it tell about events that could never happen in real life (fantasy)?

How do you know this?

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- Give a lot of praise for finishing a book and reading well.
- Talk about the book when your child has finished reading. If you are not sure how to do this, ask any of the following questions:

What were the problems in the story, and how were they solved?

Is there a lesson, or moral, to the story? If so, what is it?

What would you have done differently if you had written the story?

How did you like the book? Why do you feel that way?

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- Give a lot of praise for finishing a book and reading well.
- Talk about the book when your child has finished reading. If you are not sure how to do this, ask any of the following:

Describe the adventures in the stories.

How did the characters react to their situations?

How did you like the book? Why do you feel that way?

If you were writing an adventure story, what would it be about?

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- Give a lot of praise for finishing a book and reading well.
- Talk about the book when your child has finished reading. If you are not sure how to do this, ask any of the following questions:

What did you learn about American history from the story?

What were the problems in the story, and how were they solved?

What was your favorite part of the story? Why?

Do any of the characters in the story remind you of someone you know?

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- Give a lot of praise for finishing a book and reading well.
- Talk about the book when your child has finished reading. If you are not sure how to do this, ask any of the following questions:

What did you learn about the people in the stories?

What were some of the challenges they had to face?

Which story did you like best? Why do you feel that way?

In your opinion, which person had the most exciting adventure? Why do you think that?

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- Talk about the book when your child has finished reading. If you are not sure how to do this, ask any of the following questions:

Why do you think the author wrote this story? What was his or her purpose?

What is the main idea? What is the story mostly about?

What facts did you find in the story? Were there any opinions?

How would you describe the setting of the story? When and where does the action take place?

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