

# PARENT INSPIRATION

## Developing Literacy

Being able to read and comprehend well will help your child succeed in all subject areas in school, and is essential for independent Bible study. Writing and speaking will enable them to communicate effectively with others and to witness positively for Christ. There are several keys to cultivating reading and writing skills at all ages.

**Key 1:** Read to your child, or listen to your child read every day. This is equally true for two year olds and teens. Family worships and bedtime routines provide natural opportunities to enjoy reading together.

**Key 2:** Talk with your children every day. Use new words in your conversations. Talk about what they did, what they like, what they are doing. Join them in creative play. Point out and explain new words.

**Key 3:** Provide a variety of books and children's magazines. Borrow books from a library regularly. Make a place where your child can write and draw an attractive spot in the house, with writing/drawing materials readily available. Take books and drawing materials in the car and on trips. Model reading and writing yourself regularly. Know what is happening in school, regularly ask about your child's progress and ask the teacher about ways you can help.

### PRE-READERS

Play with letters and point out letters on everyday objects. Read alphabet books. Use new words with your child. Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story. When reading a book with large text, point word by word as you read. Invite your child to join in when a story has rhyming words or repeated phrases. Read a child's favorite book over and over again. Help your child take spoken words apart and put them together.

### BEGINNING READERS

Patiently and attentively listen to emerging readers as they read every day. Help your child fix their own reading mistakes instead of hastily correcting them. Talk about books you read together. Encourage your child to write

a little bit each day: prayer requests, journal entries, a note to someone, or a shopping list. Help your child write what he thinks or feels. Point out the letter-sound relationships your child is learning on labels, boxes, newspapers, magazines and signs.

### PROFICIENT READERS

Help growing readers select books at their reading level. Think aloud, critically evaluating or sharing aspects of things you've been reading that they can understand. Encourage your child to fix their own spelling errors. Help your child work through homework instead of doing it for them or giving the answers. Encourage your child to reread familiar books to gain practice reading comfortably and with expression. Help your child build reading accuracy by kindly pointing out words he or she missed and helping figure them out

Encourage kids to read on their own. To build reading comprehension and Christian character, talk with your child about what he/she is reading: Ask about new words, characters, places, events, themes. Ask what your child learned from the book. Together reflect on ideas shared from a Biblical worldview. Considering faith connections will help your child form a value-rich media literacy foundation, essential in today's world.

- *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, by Ellen White, p 216
- *The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development*, [nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/PRF-parents-guide.cfm](http://nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/PRF-parents-guide.cfm)
- *PBS Literacy*, [pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/](http://pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/)
- *US Department of Education*, [ed.gov/parents/read/resources/readingtips/part\\_pg4.html](http://ed.gov/parents/read/resources/readingtips/part_pg4.html)



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## INSPIRED WRITINGS

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

*Acts 17:11*

One of the fundamental branches of learning is language study... special care should be taken to teach the students to use ... language correctly in speaking, reading, and writing. Too much cannot be said in regard to the importance of thoroughness in these lines. *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, by Ellen White, p 216

## IN NATURE

The outdoors is a wonderful tool to help motivate and excite children about reading, writing, and speaking. Just going for a walk and looking at things around you is a great way to get your child to talk about what they see or engage with you in creative play. Children of any age will find lots of inspiration for art and writing in a variety of natural spots. Take books outside to read in the fresh air. Point out objects or places outdoors that are similar to those in books your child is reading.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

- *Free booklets for parents* on reading, homework, and more, [ldanatl.org/aboutld/resources/guide.asp](http://ldanatl.org/aboutld/resources/guide.asp)
- *Helping your child become a Reader*, US Department of Education, [www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/reader/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/reader/index.html)
- *Literacy resources for Parents*, Reading Rockets, [readingrockets.org/audience/parents/](http://readingrockets.org/audience/parents/)
- *Developmental Reading Helps for Parents*, [scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-help/](http://scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-help/)
- *Imagination Library (USA)* : Getting free books to kids, [imaginationlibrary.com/](http://imaginationlibrary.com/)
- *National book giveaway program (USA)*, [readingrockets.org/article/57/](http://readingrockets.org/article/57/)
- Other countries also have literacy programs...check the internet, school and local libraries, government offices and university libraries for more information.

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### Issue Author

Rosemary Bailey  
[rjbailey@andrews.edu](mailto:rjbailey@andrews.edu)

### Editor

Glynis Bradfield  
[glynisb@andrews.edu](mailto:glynisb@andrews.edu)

### Graphic Designer

Robert Mason  
[masondesign@me.com](mailto:masondesign@me.com)