



Did You Know...?

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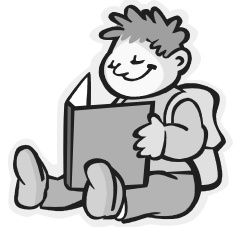
Questions Can Build a Path for Reading Improvement

Reading and literacy are the keys to success in school and in adult life. Children who struggle with reading often miss out on exploring science, history, math and the wealth of information that is available in printed material. Quality instruction in the area of reading provides a foundation for every learner.

Families can make informed decisions and improve outcomes by asking the *Right Question* as they work with educators responsible for teaching their child. Use the questions below to find out about your child's reading skills and areas for improvement. The answers may help you request supports or services to help your child succeed. Remember, if you do not understand the answer then ask to have it explained in terms you understand.

Questions adapted from material developed by The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) in North Carolina.

If you have questions about your child's overall reading progress, ask...



1. What is my child's grade level in reading? What does that mean he/she can do?
2. Where does my child need to improve?
3. Is there a difference between how well my child reads individual words and how well he/she understands what he/she reads? If so, what can we do to improve the weaker areas?
4. Are you using a specific program to teach my child? If so, what skills does this program teach?
5. If you are not using a specific program, what strategies are you using to teach my child to identify words, read smoothly and understand what he reads?
6. What kinds of things are you doing to help my child succeed in reading? (such as provide support by a reading specialist, provide different materials)
7. What can I do at home to help my son/daughter read well? (For example: Can you suggest workshops, reading lists, parent/child materials that I may borrow, or website supports?)
8. How will I be notified about my child's reading gains? Can you update me every 2-3 weeks?

Parents Reaching Out has developed a *Book of Ideas* filled with strategies that can be used to meet individual needs in reading, math and other areas. We invite families and educators to contact our office to get your copy.

If you have questions about Word Recognition, Sounds and Fluency in Reading, ask...

1. Has my child ever been tested for language and sound awareness? If so, how recently and what did the testing show?
2. What is being done in the classroom to help my child avoid pausing unnecessarily at words?
3. What strategies are being taught to help my child work through difficult sounds or words when reading?
4. What are some books, poems, nursery rhymes, word games, books, videos, audio materials, etc. that I can use at home to help my child with word recognition, sounds and/or reading aloud?
5. For practicing reading at home, would you help me select material(s) that my child can read comfortably (i.e., where 90% of the words are ones my child knows)?

If you have questions about reading comprehension, ask...

1. When my child is having trouble understanding what he/she reads, what do you do to help him/her understand the material?
2. What arrangements can we make to schedule a time for you to show me how you help my child understand the material?
3. Can you tell me about some other activities that I can do at home to help her understand what she reads?
4. What resources can you give me to use at home to help my child?
5. What kinds of activities can we do before and after my child has read to help him/her understand the information?



If you have questions about reading instruction in other subject areas, ask...

1. What are my child's other teachers doing to support and help her in light of her reading, writing and/or spelling needs?
2. What training or support in reading instruction does the district (and/or school) provide to teachers of other subject areas?



If your child receives special education services, you should also ask...

Which accommodations does my child need in core academic and special area classes to support her reading, writing and spelling needs? (You need to make sure that the special ways of addressing these literacy needs are specifically described in your child's IEP.)
The supports your child needs must be included in his/her IEP.

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