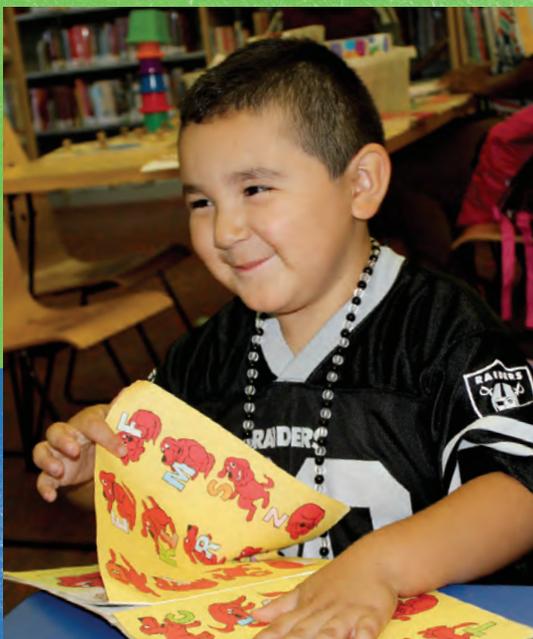


# Help Your Child Learn to Read

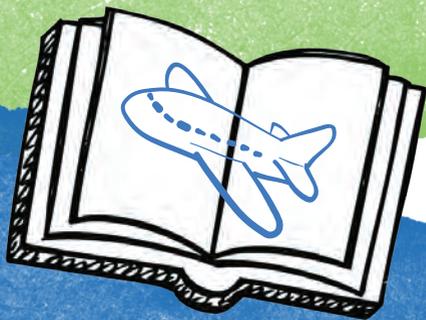
Simple things you can do to help!



You can  
make reading  
a family habit



Read together, and read alone. When reading is a family habit and reading time is fun, your child will be a reader too.





# Keep books at home.

- ✦ Borrow library books. Your libraries have areas with books at different levels, just right for you and your child to read. You and your child can talk to the librarian about what you like, and she can make suggestions for you.
- ✦ Keep your library books in a special place at home, like a basket or a shelf.
- ✦ Buy books at garage sales, flea markets, used or new book stores.
- ✦ Trade books with friends or relatives.
- ✦ Make your own books.
- ✦ Make up stories and draw pictures with your child.



## Choose books your child likes.

Let your child choose the book. Children read better when they read books they like.

- ✦ Take 3 or 4 books off the shelf and look at the covers together.
- ✦ Talk about what might be in the books.
- ✦ Look for books with stories, and books about real things. Both are good.

Easy books are okay; they make your child feel good about reading. If a book seems too hard, look for books with:

- ✦ Shorter words
- ✦ More white space and fewer words
- ✦ Repetition or rhymes
- ✦ Lots of action
- ✦ Things that interest your child.

Re-read books if your child wants to. Repetition helps children learn. Find the right book for your child. It can have some hard words, but not more than five hard words on a page. Your child should be able to understand the story while reading it.



# Make a space for reading together.

It should be comfortable, well lit, and quiet.

- ✦ Set aside 15 to 30 minutes for your time together, but stop when your child wants to stop.
- ✦ Turn off the TV, radio, and computer. Put away the phone. Focus on your time together.
- ✦ Sit close to your child. Hold the book so your child can see it easily.

**Start  
the fun**

**before  
you  
open  
the  
book**



Talk about the book before you start reading. Use the title and the cover to guess what the story is about.

- ✦ "It looks like a story about a dog. What do you think the dog is doing?"
- ✦ "There's a snake on the cover. Do you think it will bite?"

Point out things the child already knows about.

- ✦ "Look, this boy has a baby sister just like you!"
- ✦ "Remember another story about this silly alligator?"

Ask a question that doesn't have a yes or no answer.

- ✦ "What do you think will happen?"
- ✦ "What is this person doing?"
- ✦ "What if you had wings like this butterfly?"
- ✦ Ask questions like these while you are reading the book, too.

# Listen to your child read aloud.

Invite your child to read the book aloud to you while you sit and listen. Don't criticize. Remember that children learn to read at their own pace. Wait to help until your child asks for it. If your child asks for help, first say: "Do you want to try it?" Then wait and count to five to yourself slowly.

If your child wants help, try these tips:

- ✦ Say, "Skip this word and finish the sentence."
- ✦ Say, "Look at the picture for clues."
- ✦ Say, "Use the first letter sound to guess the word."
- ✦ Talk about the story to give clues about the word.
- ✦ Tell your child the word.
- ✦ Take turns reading.
- ✦ Read the book to your child.



# Don't worry about mistakes.

Remember that children make mistakes while they're learning.

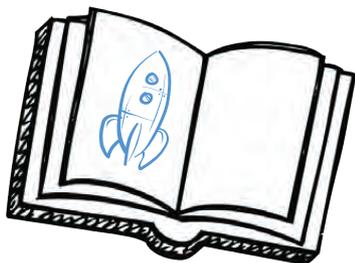
- ✦ Do not interrupt to correct your child.
- ✦ You can help without correcting by letting your child try to work things out.
- ✦ Don't get upset. If you stay positive, your child will too.
- ✦ If a child makes more than five mistakes on a page, the book may be too hard. Suggest an easier book next time.



# Take time for encouragement.

During or after reading, take time to talk about the book. Tell your child the good things you notice. Find things to praise, like these:

- ✦ "I heard how you sounded out each letter."
- ✦ "You figured it out from the picture."
- ✦ "Good guess, that's really close."
- ✦ "You saw it didn't make sense, and you tried another word that started with the same sound."
- ✦ "You know some hard words!"
- ✦ "You read that long word all by yourself."





## Keep reading aloud as your child grows.

If your child isn't ready to read alone,  
keep reading with him or her.

- ✦ Keep using the tips in this booklet. Every child learns at a different pace.
- ✦ Take turns reading words, or sentences. Follow your child's lead.
- ✦ Try acting out the story with funny voices, sound effects, or even music. Your child can act it out with toys or costumes.
- ✦ The most important thing is to enjoy reading together. If your reading time is fun, your child will think reading is fun.

Simple things  
you can do to  
help your child  
learn to read!

- ✦ Keep books at home.
- ✦ Choose books your child likes.
- ✦ Make a space for reading together.
- ✦ Start the fun before you open the book.
- ✦ Listen to your child read aloud.
- ✦ Don't worry about mistakes.
- ✦ Take time for encouragement.
- ✦ Keep reading aloud as your child grows.

## Library Locations

All telephone numbers  
are 510 area code.

Main Library Children's Room  
238-3615  
125 14th Street

81st Avenue Branch • 615-5812  
1021 81st Avenue

Asian Branch • 238-3400  
388 9th Street, Suite 190

Brookfield Branch • 615-5725  
9255 Edes Avenue

César E. Chávez Branch • 535-5620  
3301 East 12th Street, Suite 271

Dimond Branch • 482-7844  
3565 Fruitvale Avenue

Eastmont Branch • 615-5726  
7200 Bancroft Avenue, Suite 211

Elmhurst Branch • 615-5727  
1427 88th Avenue

Golden Gate Branch • 597-5023  
5606 San Pablo Avenue

Lakeview Branch • 238-7344  
550 El Embarcadero

Martin L. King, Jr. Branch • 615-5728  
6833 International Blvd.

Melrose Branch • 535-5623  
4805 Foothill Blvd.

Montclair Branch • 482-7810  
1687 Mountain Blvd.

Piedmont Avenue Branch • 597-5011  
80 Echo Avenue

Rockridge Branch • 597-5017  
5366 College Avenue

Temescal Branch • 597-5049  
5205 Telegraph Avenue

West Oakland Branch • 238-7352  
1801 Adeline Street

Please visit our website for more information about our  
programs for children and our locations and hours.



Your Library

[www.oaklandlibrary.org](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org)