



ENGAGE

Together Every Day!

Engaging children in reading at an early age is an effective way to strengthen their ability to learn. Children need to have strong reading and writing skills to be productive students. In a world full of digital tools, nothing replaces the wonders found in reading books.

That's why Assumption Parish Ready Start Network is here to provide families with valuable resources on how they can engage in reading with their children.



Make a Difference for Your Child Today!

www.assumptionreadystart.com

Literacy (the ability to read and comprehend) progresses in stages and builds upon early foundations, becoming more advanced as children become older.

The Emergent Literacy stage is critical as it is a time when children (from birth to age 6) develop skills that prepare them to be strong readers and writers.

Many emergent literacy skills develop naturally; however, it is important for families to support and encourage these foundational skills.

A few of the best ways are listed on the right side of the chart below.

Characteristics of Emergent Literacy Stage	Ways to Encourage and Support Foundational Skills
Recognizing pictures, symbols, signs or even words	Read signs. When you are out together, ask your child to identify familiar signs in buildings stores, and restaurants.
Taking an interest in books and understanding meaning from the pictures and stories	Talk before, during, and after you read with your child. Ask questions such as, “What do you think will happen?” “Has this ever happened to you?”, “Who was your favorite character?”
Understanding how to handle a book and developing print awareness (reading from left to right)	Invite your child to play “pretend” library with you, choosing books, reading titles, and taking care of books.
Listening for repeating words, and using rhymes or phrases from stories or songs	Select a book with repeating words or phrases. When coming to a section of repeated words, pause and give your child a chance to fill in the phrase.
Recognizing that words are made up of letters and recognizing letters within words	Play “I Spy” during book readings. “I Spy a word with the letter A in it! Can you find it?”

FREQUENT QUESTIONS ABOUT ENGAGING IN READING

FAQs

Question: How can I read with my child when I do not have any books at home?

Answer: Families are encouraged to look around their house for printed material. A cereal box or old magazine can be used for identifying letters and words. Visiting your local library is a great idea for a selection of children's books.

Question: My child is not interested in reading with me. He will often get up soon after we sit down!

Answer: Building up stamina for listening to books takes time. It is important to remember to let your child take the lead. Allow your child to select a book or story of interest and turn the pages. Do not forget to have fun with your voice when reading. Children love when you "become the character." It is okay to put the book away for a bit and try later when your child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention.

Question: My child keeps selecting the same book over and over. Is this okay?

Answer: Yes! Although you may have enjoyed the book enough after the first reading, your child may want to read it for the tenth time! Children learn through repetition. Multiple readings of the same book support them as they learn unfamiliar words and phrases. When books are reread, conversations become deeper, and your child may notice new things in the story.

Question: My child and I are native Spanish speakers. I am not comfortable reading to my child in English, but I know once she enters school, her teachers will be reading to her in English. What should I do?

Answer: Experts recommend that you read to your child in the language you are most comfortable with and use most frequently at home. Your child will develop a strong foundation in their first language, making it easier to speak, read, and write a second language.



Together Every Day!

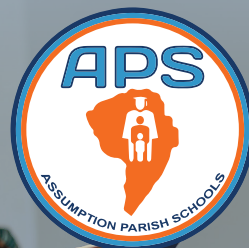
In our fast-paced world, it is often hard to find time to connect as a family, especially with our children. Quality time is often replaced with interaction on technology and apps. In a world full of digital tools, nothing replaces

the wonders found in reading books. One of the best places to develop your child's love for reading and build a stronger connection with your child, especially those from birth to age 5, is on your lap or sitting alongside you with an enjoyable book.

Aside from reading a book together, there are numerous activities that families can engage in before, during, and after reading that are interactive and fun. A few family favorites are:

- Take a Picture Walk – before reading a new book, scan through the illustrations and create a story based on what you see
- Act Out the Book – after reading a book, act it out and allow your child to create new chapters or even a new ending to the story.
- Book in a Bag – have your child find items around the house that relate to a story you have read, and discuss how those items were used in the story.

Assumption Parish Ready Start Network is here to help by providing additional resources.



Make a Difference for Your Child Today!

www.assumptionreadystart.com