



Reading Tips for 1st Graders

First Grade

- The most important predictor of reading success is time spent reading with a parent. Help your child develop a love of reading together every day.
- When your child encounters an unfamiliar word, use prompts such as, “What letter sound do you know in the word?” or “Are there any ‘little words’ you see in the word?”
- Ask your child to preview a book before reading, and predict what the story will be about. Encourage lots of re-reading opportunities.
- Material becomes easier, and fluency increases each time it is read. There is nothing like reading an “old favorite!” Allow your child to read easier books to practice fluency. Writing helps strengthen reading skills. One of the best ways to encourage writing is to show your child a picture and say, “Write what you see!”

Reading Essential Skills Your Child Should Know

- Identify word “families” such as: bat, cat, sat, or big, wig, dig.
- Identify beginning, middle, and ending sounds in one-syllable words.
- Change, add, or delete sounds within a word to create a new word. For example: add ‘b’ to ‘at’ to create ‘bat’.
- Apply phonics knowledge to decode one-syllable words using the following:
 - short and long vowels.
 - r-controlled vowels (ex: fern, bird, barn).
 - blends (ex: blue, flat, snake).
 - diagraphs (ex: ship, three, white).
 - diphthongs (ex: boy, coin, shout, cow).
- Construct meaning from text by using the following comprehension strategies:
 - ask questions.
 - make predictions.
 - sequence events (beginning, middle, ending).
 - summarize/retell the story.



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