



ALASKA READS AT HOME

Families and communities are our students' first and forever teachers.

Children spend most of their waking hours in spaces with family and community. You can help your elementary student strengthen the early literacy skills they're learning at school by:

- **Pointing out print.** Help your child begin to associate print with meaning in your home and community.
- **Playing language games.** Strengthen phonological awareness by playing with words with your children. Start with a word, and swap out sounds — bad, dad, fad, lad, mad, pad, rad, sad, tad — or break up words into individual sounds.
- **Writing it out.** Writing is a key element of literacy: children need to know both how to decode (read) and encode (spell). Use whatever materials you have around your home to practice writing. Write letters to family, friends, or fictional characters!
- **Drowning in language.** Surround your child with language and constant communication to build vocabulary.



- **Listening to your child read.** Develop oral fluency by practicing reading aloud together. Have your child read to you or read together, and listen for areas of strength and struggle. Work through hard passages together.
- **Asking questions.** Deepen comprehension and understanding by asking your child questions about what they're reading. Start your questions with who, what, when, where, why, or how.
- **Dedicating time.** Create a reading routine by regularly setting aside time for reading on your own or together. Repetition is key in helping children develop the pathways that their brains need to become readers. All learners — but especially those with reading disabilities — benefit from repetition while developing foundational skills.
- **Partnering with teachers.** Ask your child's teacher more about their approach for literacy. Ask them for activities that you can do at home to extend literacy lessons.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Reading 101: A Guide for Parents

Reading Rockets

www.readingrockets.org/reading-101-guide-parents

For Families

ColorIn Colorado

www.colorincolorado.org/families

Literacy

PBS Kids for Parents

www.pbs.org/parents/learn-grow/all-ages/literacy

AKLearns

Region 16 CC & Alaska DEED

www.aklearns.org

