## Supporting Literacy at Home Practical Suggestions for Grades K-6

Alameda County Reading Association
Kathy Langham
Mary Small
Cheri Benafield
Bee Medders
www.alamedareading.org




## Environment tips during distance learning

- Setting up a learning environment is important for students, whether at home or school.
- Have a designated space for your child to work. A table and chair is ideal, as proper posture and seating helps with focus.
- Establish and follow a schedule or routine.
- Have designated times for independent work (asynchronous work) and check in with your child on what they did today.
- Allow for breaks and opportunities to get up and move around.
- It is important that students have breakfast and lunch. Some may need a snack in between Zoom sessions. It is important that they get up and do a non-screen activity for periods of the day.



## Resources: Focus

- Concern: My child is having a hard time focus during Zoom meetings.
- Using a stress ball/squeeze ball in hand
- Drinking water during zoom meetings (have a water bottle at hand)
- My child is having a hard time completing all his/her assignments.
- Take breaks between tasks (10-15 mins.)
- Work on preferred subjects first
- Set visual timers when working (use chromebook or smartphone to time, and gradually increase work time little by little each week)
- Set specific goals to meet in between breaks (ie. complete even problems, write 4 sentences, etc)
- Turn in what is done within an appropriate amount of time (no more than 30 minutes per task)
- Working for an incentive (ie. time with parent, 15 mins of tv, youtube)
- Talk to your child's teacher about making modifications to assignments as appropriate


Resources: Communication

- Concern: My child is shy and doesn't feel comfortable sharing in Zoom meetings.
- Share ideas/thoughts in the chat box
- Practice zooming at home with family members
- Concern: Sometimes it is hard for students to be heard in Zoom meetings.
- It could be an audio issue, so encourage or remind your child to speak close to the microphone.
- Use the chat feature in Zoom.
- Contact the teacher and/or the school office.



## Resources: Social Emotional Support

## Concern: My child misses his/her friends.

Possible solution/suggestion: Participate in socially distanced local events. Concern: As a family, are there activities that we can do together?

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursclay | Friday | Saturday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ask your child to notice thingst that ore funh during the doy ond tell you qt the end of the day. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Go for walk } \\ & \text { together, notice } \\ & \text { each foot on the } \\ & \text { ground. } \end{aligned}$ | Tell a story about a fun past event. | Make a special handshake to use with your child. | Schedule one-onone time together. | Show appreciation with words and gestures. | Do something fun and laugh fun and laugh together. |
| Validate your child's feelings. Child's feelings. II see you are upset." | Listen fully. judgement. | Check in with see how they are feeling during the day | Learn a new breathing tool. | Collaborate. brainstorm, and child in problem solving. | Acknowledge the effort your child puts into something. | Help your child come up with a new and fun ided or invention. |
| Follow your child's lead and do what they want to do. | Make a collage of family photos and events. | Play freeze dance. | Discuss how other people feel in various situations. books, or movies. | Encourage your child to shake and move their body. | Determine a few things to look forward to. | Practice breathing atro movement strategies. even when your child is calm. |
| Take a few sensory breaks with your with your | Practice daily affirmations and positive self-talk. | Talk about a mistake you learned from. | Ask your child how to turn a negative situation into a positive one | When reading point rogethe facial expressions and emotions. | Notice something that your child did well. | Start a family gratitude journal. |
| Model talking about your feelings during the day. | Before bed, write down three things that went well. | Notes \& Ideas: |  |  |  |  |



## Resources: Homework help

- Concern: Independent work is too hard for my child and we are spending so much time on it.
- Talk with your child's teacher. Independent work/asynchronous work should take approximately no more than the following time to complete:
- Tk/K: 1 hour
- Grades 1-3: 2 hours
- Grades 4-5: 2 hours and 15 minutes
- Concern: Library/Book Resources
- Alameda County Library
- aclibrary.org
- Libby App, Overdrive App, Kindle App and No Contact Checkout
- Library link for virtual read
- https://events.aclibrary.org/calendar/online/?cid=12820\&t=d\&d=0000-0000\&cal=12820\&inc=0\#
- Scholastic Classroom Sales
- Gifts



## Book Lists

- California Young Reader Medals
- www.californiayoungreadermedal.org
- Eureka Awards -nonfiction books
- 2020 Eureka Honorees
- California Depatment of Education
- www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/rl
- Like on Facebook
- We Need Diverse Books
- A Mighty Girl



## eBook Resources

- Epic: www.getepic.com
- Storyline online:
- https://www.storylineonline.net/library/,
- newsELA: www.newsela.com
- National Geographic for kids:
- https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/



## Genres

- Nonfiction
- Biography
- How Tos
- Fiction
- Fantasy
- Humor
- Mystery
- Poetry


## Formats

- Picture Books
- Graphic Novels
- Chapter Books
- Text books
- Magazines
- e books


## Instill a Love of Reading

- At least 20 minutes per day
- Something they CAN and WANT to read
- Five Finger Rule
- Talk about the reading
- Book Mark
- Strategies Questions Chart
- Model a love of reading



## The Five Finger Rule

(Choosing books at your child's reading level)

1. Turn to a page near the middle of the book.

2. Hold up one hand (in a fist).

3. While the child reads from the top of the page,
s/he holds up one finger each time an unknown word is encountered.

4. All 5 fingers up: book too difficult

Four fingers up: book may be too difficult
Three or less_fingers.up:: book about right


## Note:

If a book is too difficult, suggest that you read the book aloud to your child
S/he may wish to try reading it on his/her own after it is read aloud.



Using Reading Strategies

| Super Six Strategy | Ask Yourself: | Sentence Starters |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Connecting | What does this remind me <br> of? What do I know about <br> the topic? Have I read other <br> books like this or by the <br> same author? If so, how <br> does it help me with this <br> reading? | This reminds me of ... <br> Remembering this helps me <br> with the reading because... |
| Predicting/Inferring | What text and/or picture <br> clues or background <br> knowledge help me make <br> an inference or below the <br> surface prediction? What <br> will happen? What is the <br> text about? What will I <br> learn? Were my predictions <br> and inferences correct? <br> How did making the <br> prediction or inference help <br> me with this reading? | I predict ... because... <br> I infer ... because <br> My prediction/inference <br> was right/wrong because... <br> My prediction/inference <br> helped me by ... |
| Questioning | What am I wondering? <br> What questions do I have? <br> What would I like to ask the <br> author? What questions <br> might a teacher ask? | I wonder... <br> I would like to ask the <br> author... <br> Questions words: Who, <br> What, Where, When, Why, <br> How |
| Monitoring/Clarifying | Is anything confusing to me <br> so far? Are there any <br> confusing words or parts? <br> Am I getting a movie in my <br> head (visualizing)? What <br> Fix It Strategies did I try? <br> Did they help? | I don't get the part...so I ... <br> I don't know the word ... so <br> I ... <br> When the author wrote ... it <br> gave me a great picture in <br> my head. |
| Summarizing/Synthesizing | What important has <br> happened so far? What are <br> the main ideas? What have I <br> learned so far? What is the <br> theme or moral? Has this <br> text changed what I think? | The important thing(s) that <br> happened in this part... <br> So far I have learned ... <br> One of the themes is ... <br> I use to think ... but now I <br> think ... |
|  | What important ideas can I <br> agree or disagree with? Do I <br> agree with the characters' <br> actions? How did I like the <br> text? | agree/disagree with ... <br> Iecause... <br> I think this text is ... <br> because ... |



## Ways to Read

- Independent Reading
- Adult Reads to Child
- Child and Adult Read Together


## Always Be Positive



## When A Child Needs Help

- Give her a few seconds. Praise her if she figures it out. Say, "You figured it out!"
- Prompt

Say, "Think what would make sense?"

- Give her one or two clues:

Say, "What's the first letter sound?"
"Do you see a part of the word you know?"

- If that doesn't work, tell her the word.



## When A Child Needs Help

- If she doesn't realize she makes a mistake
- Ask if it makes sense
- Ask her to reread


## Perfection is NOT the goal Make it FUN



## Reading Writing Connection

- Say it-Write it-Read it
- Read it-Talk about it-Write it
- Ways to Practice Writing
- Timed Writing
- Write a sentence and pass the paper
- Handwriting
- Shape Size Spacing
- Dictation Recording Typing



## Spelling and Vocabulary Making Words

$a b d$ hirty


## Fluency

## - Fluency Game

- High


## Frequency

Words

## Reading Rates

## The Pet Shop

Maria really wanted a little dog. One day she went with her parents to the pet shop. They looked at the fish, turtles, parrots, and many kinds of dogs. Maria and her parents saw one nice puppy that acted very lively. It looked like a small bouncing black ball of fur. The puppy was a fluffy black poodle. It jumped around in its cage. When Maria petted the puppy, it sat up and begged. Maria and her parents laughed because the poodle looked so cute. They decided to buy the poodle. After all, who could resist such a nice dog.


Revised Dolch List

| a | could | he | might | same | told |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| about | cut | heard | more | saw | too |
| across | did | help | most | say | took |
| after | didn't | her | much | see | toward |
| again | do | here | must | she | try |
| all | does | high | my | short | turn |
| always | done | him | near | should | two |
| am | don't | his | need | show | under |
| an | down | hold | never | six | up |
| and | draw | hot | next | small | upon |
| another | eat | how | new | so | us |
| any | enough | I | no | some | use |
| are | even | I'm | not | soon | very |
| around | every | if | now | start | walk |
| as | far | in | of | still | want |
| ask | fast | into | off | stop | warm |
| at | find | is | oh | take | was |
| away | first | it | old | tell | we |
| be | five | its | on | ten | well |
| because | for | just | once | than | went |
| been | found | keep | one | that | were |
| before | four | kind | only | the | what |
| began | from | know | open | their | when |
| best | full | last | or | them | where |
| better | gave | leave | other | then | which |
| big | get | left | our | there | while |
| black | give | let | out | these | white |
| blue | go | light | over | they | who |
| both | going | like | own | think | why |
| bring | gone | little | play | this | will |
| but | good | long | put | those | with |
| by | got | look | ran | thought | work |
| call | green | made | read | three | would |
| came | grow | make | red | through | yes |
| can | had | many | right | to | yet |
| close | hard | may | round | today | you |
| cold | has | me | run | together | your |
| come | have | mean | said |  |  |

The rationale and research for this list are described in Johns, J.L. (1981). The development of the revised Dolch list. Illinois School Research and Development, 17(3), 15-24.
From Jerry L. Johns and Susan Davis Lenski, Improving Reading: Strategies, Resources, and Common Core Connections (7th ed.). Copyright © 2019 Kendall Hunt Publishing Company ( $800-247-3458$, ext. 6). May be reproduced for noncommercial educational purposes.

| Rasinski Words Correct Per Minute Target Rates* <br> Words Per Minute (WPM) |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Grade | Fall | Winter | Spring |
| 1 | $0-10$ | $10-50$ | $30-90$ |
| 2 | $30-80$ | $50-100$ | $70-130$ |
| 3 | $50-110$ | $70-120$ | $80-140$ |
| 4 | $70-120$ | $80-130$ | $90-140$ |
| 5 | $80-130$ | $90-140$ | $100-150$ |
| 6 | $90-140$ | $100-150$ | $110-160$ |

*Rasinski, T. \& Padak, N. (2005). 3-Minute Reading Assessments. New York, NY: Scholastic Inc.


