

# Literacy Tips for Parents: Learning to Read with Your First Grader



Encourage your child to write you stories, help with lists and practice their name. Provide your child with different supplies like markers, paint, play-dough and crayons. Tell your child you need their help with grocery lists, to-do lists, birthday invitations, or stories about the day.

Provide many opportunities for children to read aloud. Sit closely with your child at home and when visiting the library to enjoy books together.

Help your children choose books that are at their reading level. "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle and "The Foot

Book" by Dr. Seuss are good choices. Your first-grader needs to feel successful, so books should not be difficult.

Ask your child questions as they read stories or look at books. By asking them to tell you answers to *who*, *what*, *where*, *when* and *why* questions, you help them to understand the parts of a story. Example: Why do you think the dog is sad? Who did you like in the story? Where is the dog going? Who made the dog sad? What do you think the dog will do next?

Help your child to answer questions about stories by giving them clues when they get stuck. Encourage your child to guess what words on the page say.

Example: What pictures do you see on the page? What words do you know that start with b?

Play word games with your child and encourage them to help you create words on a chalkboard, blocks or paper. Example: If you write the word tap and then remove the t, your child can then add a different letter like c, b or g to make new words: cap, bap and gap. It can be fun to make funny-sounding words.

Remember that your child will not read every word correctly. Ask them to sound out the letters to you when they are not sure of a word. Sometimes children guess at words by focusing on the first letter. First graders need to be reminded to look at all of the letters in a word.