

Reading Routines at Home

Newcomers

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This short guide was created to help you understand what reading looks like for students that have no English and are new to the U.S. (Newcomers). It provides strategies for creating reading routines at home.

Research shows that it takes, on average, 4-7 years to become English proficient. To do this, Newcomers need to practice listening, speaking, reading and writing in English every day. Children learn language by using language.

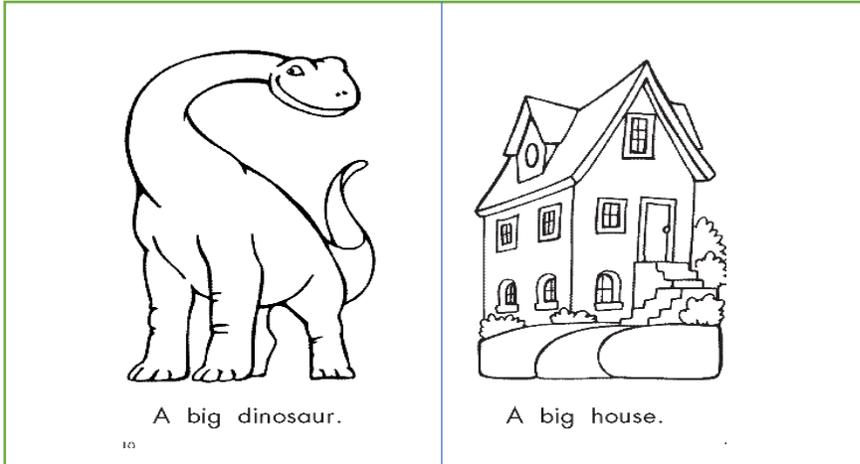
Newcomers can learn English by reading simple books every day and talking about their reading. Teachers do this with students at school, but by reading with your child at home he/she can learn English much quicker!

Read simple books:

Listen to your child read a simple book every night. Preview the pictures in the book and have your child point to and say the important vocabulary on each page before having them read the book aloud to you. See if your child can use some of the vocabulary to talk about the book after they read it.

Below is a sample of a simple text.

There is a repeated pattern.



Pictures support the words.

Look for books that only have a few words per page and repeat a pattern or ABC

Students point to each word as they read. *They are not using the letters to read at this level.* They are using the pattern and the pictures.

Practice letter names and sounds: If your child doesn't know her letters yet, you can practice them with her by saying the name and sound for each letter (A says /a/ like apple). Students can also learn the alphabet, as well as listen to books in English, on-line. Listening to books on-line is one of the best ways for students to learn the language. Here are a few websites to use.

Web Sites and Resources

www.abcya.com – alphabet: letters, sounds

www.starfall.com- alphabet: letters, sounds, early reading

www.myon.com – read/listen to books

www.coateses.fcps.edu/student-resources – More web sites for reading and learning.

Ask questions about the book:

As your child progresses to harder texts ask them about the story. Who are the characters? What happened in the story? Where did it happen? What was the problem and solution?

Create home reading routines:

- Make reading a fun part of every day! Your child can read before dinner, after dinner, before bed or in the morning. Find a time that works for your family and make it happen.
- Provide a quiet place to read independently for 15 minutes or more a day. (No distractions). It's OK to read books online. See the resources above.
- Read to your child in your native language and talk about what you read.
- Listen to your child read books in English (even if you don't speak English). Talk to your child about the story.
- Monitor your child as he practices the English alphabet. He should trace the letters while saying the name of the letter and eventually, the sound. See the resources for web sites to practice letters and sounds in English.
- Help memorize sight words (words that you see often in books)
 - Find sight words in books
 - Practice writing sight words
 - Practice reading sight words quickly



Sight Word List

https://www.sightwords.com/pdfs/word_lists/dolch_group.pdf