

# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

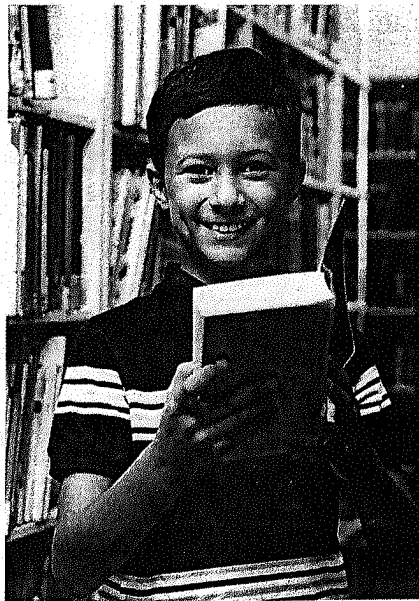
Monongalia County Schools  
Title I Parent Involvement

## Make library trips an enriching part of your family's school year routine

Now that the hustle and bustle of a new school year has begun, don't forget about your public library! Regular family trips will help you keep your home stocked with wonderful things for everyone to read.

During your library visits, encourage your child to check out a variety of books and reading materials, including:

- **Books** related to things he's learning about in school.
- **Audiobooks.**
- **Biographies** about influential people.
- **Graphic novels** and comics.
- **Magazines** and newspapers.
- **Books** that are slightly above his reading level to read together.
- **Poetry collections.**
- **Nonfiction texts** about his hobbies and subjects that interest him.



## Fill your refrigerator with words

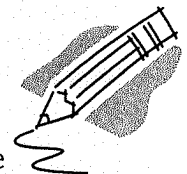
Is your refrigerator plastered with photos, art and more? Cover it with words, too! Add:

- **Letter magnets** so your child can spell out words.
- **A calendar** to help your child recognize days of the week.
- **Lists** of all kinds, such as shopping lists, to-do lists and weekly menus.
- **A "word of the day"** for you and your child to use and discuss.



## Use wordless picture books for writing inspiration

Ask your child's teacher or the librarian to help you find a picture book with few or no words. Then, have your child write some text to go with the illustrations. When she's finished, read the story together!



## Decode unfamiliar words like a detective

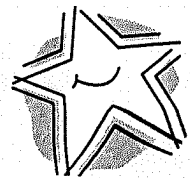
Your child is stuck on a word and asks for help. "What does this say?" Now's the time to investigate and have a little fun! Suggest that she:

- **Sound it out.** How do the letters come together to make sounds? Be patient and encouraging as your child tries.
- **Reread the sentence or paragraph.** What comes before and after the word that's giving her trouble? What other word or words would make sense in its place?
- **Look for clues.** Are there hints in nearby illustrations or photos? Is the word—or any part of the word—similar to one that your child already knows? These are called *context clues*.

## Reread to boost fluency

*Fluency* is the ability to read quickly and easily. A fluent reader doesn't pause to decode words.

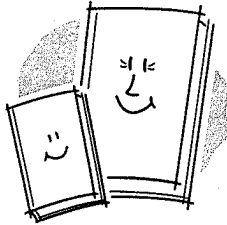
You can help your child become a fluent reader by encouraging him to read and reread favorite books. When he is familiar with the text—and when the reading gets a little easy—he doesn't have to focus on figuring out each word. Instead, he can focus on reading with speed and expression.



## Spend quality time reading together

Set aside some time each day to read with your child. He will benefit from your involvement, and you'll enjoy each other's company! For the best results:

- **Select a time to read together** when your child is most receptive. Make it a part of the day that you both look forward to.
- **Talk about the books you read.** Ask your child questions that will get him thinking. "Do you agree with what the main character did?" "What do you think will happen next?" "Would you have ended the story a different way?"
- **Give an encore performance.** Your child may want to hear stories again and again—and that's good. The more he listens to a story, the more he can learn from it.
- **Admire other performers.** Listen to professional storytellers or go to story hours at the library. Try some audiobooks, too.



## Immerse your child in reading

To show your child just how much fun reading can be, suggest that she put herself into the world in which her book takes place. Encourage your child to:

- **Get into character.** Have her read some exciting dialogue from the book out loud. Remind her to be dramatic!
- **Draw a map.** She can draw the area where the story takes place.
- **Design costumes.** She can sketch pictures of the type of clothing each character might wear.
- **Invite a character to dinner.** Help her plan a menu the character would like based on what she knows from the book.



## Ask questions to help your child find the right book

Learning how to choose a book is an important step for readers. When your child is deciding on a book to read, ask her:

- **Does the title** sound interesting?
- **Is the text** easy to read?
- **Do you like** the pictures?
- **Are you "hooked"** after reading the first few lines?

## For lower elementary readers:

- *Turtle's Race with Beaver* by Joseph Bruchac and James Bruchac. Turtle burrows deep into the pond when winter comes. When she resurfaces, she finds that Beaver has moved in, and the pond is different.
- *Penny and Her Song* by Kevin Henkes. Penny is a little mouse with a song to share. Unfortunately, her family isn't ready to listen. What will she do?



## For upper elementary readers:

- *Dancing Home* by Alma Flor Ada and Gabriel M. Zubizarreta. Margie has finally convinced her classmates that she is 100% American. When her cousin arrives from Mexico, she worries the teasing will start again.
- *The Universe of Fair* by Leslie Bulion. Miller wants to explore the town fair by himself. However, he finds that responsibility is much more than he bargained for.



**Q:** School just started, and I'm already worried about my child's reading skills. Is it too soon to contact his teacher?

**A:** No! The sooner reading struggles are identified, the better. The teacher is still getting to know your child, so your perspective is especially important.

Working together gives your child his best chance for success. Let the teacher know about your concerns and be sure to ask what you can do to support your child at home.

### Building Readers®

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The 2019-2020

BUILDING READERS™

# Book List

## Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

***We Are Family*** by Patricia Hegarty (Tiger Tales). This detailed picture book with short rhyming text introduces young readers to different kinds of families who have one big thing in common: unconditional love. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***Paper Wishes*** by Lois Sepahban (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). A young Japanese-American girl and her family are forced into an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. An engaging story about survival and love offers a personal perspective on American history. (*historical fiction, upper elementary*)

***Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles*** by Patricia Valdez (Knopf Books for Young Readers). Dynamic illustrations and text tell the story of a pioneering female scientist and how she turned her passion for reptiles into a career. (*biography, lower elementary*)

***The Book of Boy*** by Catherine Gilbert Murdock (Greenwillow Books). Winner of multiple awards, this thrilling tale takes readers on a suspenseful medieval adventure, where nothing is quite what it seems. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

***The Fox on the Swing*** by Evelina Daciutè (Thames & Hudson, Inc). Readers will encounter unexpected details and a satisfying surprise in an award-winning tale about happiness and friendship. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***Merci Suárez Changes Gears*** by Meg Medina (Candlewick). Winner of the 2019 Newbery Medal, this story follows a young girl as she enters sixth grade and experiences difficult challenges with her friends and family. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

***All that Trash: The Story of the 1987 Garbage Barge and Our Problem with Stuff*** by Meghan

McCarthy (Simon & Schuster). Filled with comical illustrations and facts about recycling, this is the true story of a ship full of trash that traveled over 6,000 miles. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

***Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild*** by Catherine Thimmesh (HMH Books for Young Readers). In this award-winning book with stunning photos, readers get an up-close view of pandas and wildlife conservation. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)

***The Adventures of Otto: See Pip Flap*** by David Milgrim (Simon Spotlight). With

simple vocabulary and illustrations, this silly story about a robot who tries to teach his friend how to fly will entertain young readers. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***The Parker Inheritance*** by Varian Johnson (Arthur A. Levine Books). A mystery takes readers on a journey through time and explores issues of race, bullying and identity. (*fiction, upper elementary*)



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**Mommy's Khimar** by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow (Salaam Reads). An award-winning book with colorful illustrations and lyrical text introduces readers to a young American Muslim girl who loves her mother's beautiful headscarves. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

**Elvis Is King!** by Jonah Winter (Schwartz & Wade). In this illustrated biography, readers will learn about music legend Elvis Presley's rise to fame. (*biography, upper elementary*)

**Feel the Beat: Dance Poems that Zing from Salsa to Swing** by Marilyn Singer (Dial Books). Celebrate music and styles of dance with this engaging picture book poetry collection. (*poetry, lower elementary*)

**Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems** by Bob Raczka (Roaring Brook Press). This collection of clever poems gives readers a new and exciting way to experience poetry. Through arrangement and form, each poem becomes a "word painting." (*poetry, upper elementary*)

**Say Something!** by Peter H. Reynolds (Orchard Books). This powerful picture book encourages children to speak up and speak out. Everyone can make a difference in the world—just by making their voice heard. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

**Front Desk** by Kelly Yang (Arthur A. Levine Books). Follow Mia and her parents as they work together in a motel. This award-winning book, loosely based on the author's childhood, examines issues of immigration and social justice. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

**Benji, the Bad Day, and Me** by Sally J. Pla (Lee & Low Books). When Sammy has a horrible day, his autistic brother knows just how to make him feel better. This is a beautifully illustrated, sweet story about feelings and family. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

**Amal Unbound** by Aisha Saeed (Nancy Paulsen Books). A young Pakistani girl dreams of continuing her education, but is forced into indentured servitude. Find out how she overcomes her circumstances with strength and dignity. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

**From the Heart of Africa: A Book of Wisdom** by Eric Walters (Tundra Books). A collection of wise African sayings and bold full-page illustrations will inspire readers of all ages. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

**Road Trip with Max and His Mom** by Linda Urban (HMH Books for Young Readers). Max goes on an exciting adventure with his mom after returning

from a weekend at his dad's house. This chapter book offers a loving look at family life after a divorce. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

**Flow, Spin, Grow: Looking for Patterns in Nature** by Patchen Barss (Owlkids). Clear illustrations and rhyming text introduce young readers to the world of patterns. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

**National Parks of the USA** by Kate Siber (Wide Eyed Editions). An award-winning science book, filled with fascinating facts and breathtaking illustrations, takes readers on a tour of America's national parks. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)

