



Supporting Early Literacy At Home

Guide for Parents and Families

Students who are reading and writing proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to graduate. That's why the second goal of the Denver Plan 2020 – a foundation for success in school – is critically important. DPS is focused on early literacy as the foundation for students' entire academic experience. Early literacy, which DPS defines as reading, writing, speaking and listening, is essential to building a strong foundation for success in school and in life.

There are many activities that parents and families can engage in with their students at home to support early literacy.

Check out books, audiobooks and eBooks.

An important part of creating the joy of reading in children is sharing the rich treasure of stories and information through the written word. Go to dpsk12.lib.overdrive.com on any device with wireless access to login with their student ID and birthdate. Or go to the lion.dpsk12.org site which has a wide variety of digital resources, including Tumblebooks, another great eBook resource. Every child in DPS has access to a wonderful eBook collection that is available anytime, anywhere.

Tips for Reading With Your Child

1. Let your child choose what books to read together.
2. Take turns reading and encourage your child to practice reading out loud with you.
3. As you read, ask your child questions such as "What do you think will happen next?" or "Why do you think that happened?"
4. Read with your child in their native language.

Sign up for the Denver Public Library's Summer Reading and Learning Program.

Another great way to help your students discover a love of reading, this free program includes interesting events and the ability to win prizes for reading and learning - even a ticket to the Elitch Gardens amusement park! Learn more at SummerOfReading.org.

Explore summer enrichment opportunities.

Many of our schools offer free opportunities during the summer for students to work on their literacy skills. Check with your child's teacher to learn more about what support may be available to help your child pursue their academic goals.

"My child only wants to read the same books over and over again."

"My child only reads the same series."

While it's great to help your child expand his/her horizons by trying out new books and discovering new favorites, research indicates a surprising number of benefits for repeated re-reading as well as for sustained engagement with books in a series. If your child is highly motivated to read something outside of school, and you are comfortable with the content, rest assured that he/she is learning and growing even if the text and/or series is familiar. Similarly, if your student has a strong interest in a particular topic, research shows that reading multiple texts about a topic is one of the fastest ways to build knowledge and vocabulary. You can help your child find books, including audiobooks, that he/she will enjoy through the DPS eBook collection that is available anytime, anywhere.

Lion Collection: <http://lion.dpsk12.org>

OverDrive Collection: <http://dpsk12.lib.overdrive.com>