

PARTNERS ON THE JOURNEY

How the Public Library Helps Parents Grow Young Readers



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The Simple View of the Reading Journey

The journey to reading has two major components: **Language Comprehension** (understanding words that are heard) and **Decoding** (recognizing words on the printed page).

Reading comprehension develops from these components when readers are able to decode the words on a page and make meaning from them.

The goal of the journey is to have reading become integral part of the students lives so that they become lifelong readers for enjoyment, personal growth and for gathering information relevant to their lives.

The image below looks at this view of reading through a child developmental lens. See the other side of this handout for suggestions for ways parents can support the journey with the help of the public library.

Reading through a child's developmental years

Step 1 - Early Literacy years

In the early years, language comprehension takes the stage (where it will remain for a lifetime) with children needing exposure to lots of language through being read to, sung to, talked to, etc. In later preschool years, the early stage of decoding begins as children begin to recognize letters, their name and other familiar words.

Step 2 - Early Elementary

In the early years of school, decoding comes full to the stage to join language comprehension as children begin to learn to recognize words both with sight and sound.

Step 3 - Later Elementary

In the early years of school, decoding comes full to the stage to join language comprehension as children begin to learn to recognize words both with sight and sound.

Early Literacy Activities

Choose the ones your child most enjoys.

The landmark Becoming a Nation of Readers report from 1985 concluded that "the single most important activity for building knowledge for their eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children." (2)

- Read aloud together regularly. It is a wonderful way to bond.
- Sing songs, playing bounce games on your lap, talk about your daily routines, engage in dramatic play.
- Allow them to "play" with board books and other toddler friendly books.
- Let them read books to you by looking at the pictures and telling you the story of what they see.
- As they start to learn to recognize letters, have them go on "hunts" for the letters both on book covers and in the text. Also look for words and letters you see in your environment. (You can do the same thing with numbers, colors and shapes.)
- Let them choose books they would like to have you read to them or for them to "read" to you.
- When your child starts to ask questions about things they observe in the world, help them learn that they can find answers in books.
- Visit the library regularly.

Early Elementary Activities

Choose the ones your child most enjoys.

Children typically reach the milestone of sounding out unfamiliar words at ages 6-7. Keep in mind that kids develop at different paces and spend varying amounts of time at each stage. (3)

- Keep on reading aloud to them while they learn to read and after they are able to read independently. Have conversations about the books you read together.
- Listen to audiobooks in the car or at home.
- Let them practice reading aloud to others. Younger siblings and even pets are great audiences as they practice.
- Many books for this age group are in series. Enjoyable series keep them reading!
- Encourage creative fun connected to their reading including drawing pictures, creating puppet shows or plays, and creating their own books with stapled paper.
- Continue to encourage them to think of books and other resources as places to find factual answers to questions. They can start learning the Dewey Decimal numbers for some of their favorite subjects. For example you can find books about Dinosaurs at call number 567 in any public library.
- Visit the library regularly.

Older Elementary Activities

Choose the ones your child most enjoys.

Exposing students to lots of books and positive reading experiences, while building a network of other readers who support each other provides students with tools that last beyond the classroom setting. (4)

- Keep on reading aloud to your child even once they are a strong, independent reader.
- Listen to audio books together in the car or at home.
- Read some of the same books that your child is reading independently and talk about them.
- Allow your child to self-select their own book and encourage them to have a method for keeping track of books and authors they enjoy for future reference. Let them place holds on PINES for books they want to read.
- Look for opportunities in your local area to meet authors and illustrators.
- Get together with families in your community for book clubs.
- Play book-based games with your children.
- One game that is elementary-age kids like is called "Stump the Parent". Rather than "quizzing" your child about a book you both read, have them come up with questions to try to stump YOU.
- Continue to encourage them to think of books and other resources as places to find factual answers to questions. Introduce them to some of the professionally curated databases available through Galileo (at school and at the public library.) Start discussions about differences in facts, opinions, hyperbole, etc.
- Visit the library regularly.

Three Ways the Public Library Supports the Journey

We encourage reading aloud and other literacy activities for children of all ages.

Story times and book clubs for all ages (Currently only virtual due to Covid). Our regular story times are research-based and developmentally appropriate. We have story times for babies, toddlers and twos, preschool and elementary. These parent/caregiver programs incorporate books, songs, rhymes and other learning activities. We also regularly offer STEAM story times and Picture Book Trails that allow you to walk a trail with them and read a book together on the signposts along the way. We also offer book clubs for families with elementary age children.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten. This is a reading challenge for parents to read at least 1000 books to their young child before they start school. Children get stickers and other small rewards along the way. You can participate with paper logs or a mobile app.

Reading Challenges for ages 4 and older on Beanstack. Beanstack is a website and app we use to create fun reading challenges for children and families. We offer ongoing and seasonal challenges throughout the year.

CAREing Paws (Currently only virtual due to COVID). Trained volunteers bring in reading therapy dogs for children to read to in a fun, nonthreatening environment.

Summer Quest. Our annual summer reading adventure with challenges and engaging programs for all ages.

Sight word lists. Dolch and Fry lists are available as take home handouts on top of our beginning reader shelves.

We provide professional guidance to foster the ability for readers to be able to select, use and enjoy reading material independently.

A professionally curated collection of diverse books for all ages.

This including sturdy board books that babies and toddlers can enjoy, beginning reader books and early chapter books that emerging readers can enjoy as they build decoding and reading comprehension skills, middle grade novels for ages 8-12, graphic novels and nonfiction for older readers. E-books and audio books also available through Libby and E-read Kids.

Assistance in selecting books for your child.

We can help you in person when you come in OR you can call the library and tell us a little about your child's age and interests and we can gather a bag of books to put on our holds shelf or out at curbside pick up.

Book lists on our website that you can use to place holds on books based on your child's age and interest.



We connect families of readers to each other.

Play Space (Currently closed due to Covid)

Our play space offers block building, stem activities, imaginative play materials, puppet play, simple art, games and more.

Fayette Kids Read.

Fayette Kids Read is a family-oriented community reading program where we all explore the same book, author or theme together through presentations, activities, reading challenges and more. We do this every fall and spring for families with children ages 4 - 11. Seasonal sessions include family book club meetings in person or on ZOOM.

Works Cited

1. <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/simple-view-reading>
2. <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/why-reading-aloud-to-kids-helps-them-thrive>
3. <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/milestones.html>
4. Miller, Donalyn. Reading in the Wild. Jossey-Bass, 2013.

Links to Library Resources

How to get a library card

https://fayettecountyga.gov/public_library/using_the_library.htm

Georgia Pines Catalog of Library Books

<https://gapines.org/eg/opac/home>

Children's Book Lists

https://fayettecountyga.gov/public_library/childrens_book_list.htm

Beanstack Information

https://fayettecountyga.gov/public_library/pdf/2020Spring/Beanstackflyer.pdf

Online Resources for Parents and Children

https://fayettecountyga.gov/public_library/pdf/2020Spring/UPDATE%20_2020%20Electronic%20Resources%20for%20Parents%20and%20Children.pdf

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

https://fayettecountyga.gov/public_library/pdf/2020Spring/1kbk%20flyer%20with%20Beanstack.pdf

Children's Page for Program Information

https://fayettecountyga.gov/public_library/childrens_program.htm

Fayette County Virtual Story Time Playlists

Tunes and Tales (Ages 0-3)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLc72eP5lBScTiAvmD4PDSU99Nj6D-5HOOb>

Preschool Story Time (Ages 3+)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLc72eP5lBScQUZyTOwgmhKzOHUQw96Xki>

Book Breaks for Early Elementary (Ages 5+)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLc72eP5lBScTVf-EsGp-23HaO6sn1pMjk>

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