



## Tips for Involved Parents from Gwinnett County Public Schools

*Be There* is a national movement that inspires parents to become more involved in their children's education. Teachable moments are everywhere. Be your child's favorite teacher. Connect in meaningful ways and your simple actions will reap immense rewards at home, play, and school!

### Literacy support at home key for young children

With young children, every moment is an opportunity to learn! And parents are a child's first teacher. Here are tips to support your preschooler, rising kindergartner, or new reader:

**Read, read, read!** Read, read, read with your child! Books that have repeating lines or are lyrical in nature are appealing to young children and are a great way to increase communication skills and participate in the reading of the book. When you read together, he'll learn that books are fun and will want to read himself.

**Talk the talk.** Reading is interactive. As you read with your child, ask questions and be responsive to comments she is making to start a reading conversation. When reading favorite books, ask your child to use the pictures to retell the story.

**Predictable is enjoyable.** Before starting a book, look at the pictures and have your child predict what the story might be about. Children are more receptive to the story if they know a little bit about it. Extend the story by asking "what would happen if..."

**Tech-enhanced reading.** Take advantage of your "digital native." Kids today are surrounded by technology— embrace it. Allow your child to watch educationally focused videos or play online games or apps that you have previewed or that your child's teacher recommends.



**Read by 'touch.'** Give your child fun ways to learn letters. Tracing in shaving cream or sand may be messy, but it provides great entertainment and fine motor work for children. Keep magnetic letters "corralled" on a metal cookie sheet, or displayed on the refrigerator at "kid level."

**Art(ful reading).** Allow your child's artistic side to shine. Ask him to draw pictures about books you have read together. Your child can draw the characters, his favorite part of the story, even an alternate ending.

**Word games.** Play word games with your child. Games for rhyming families— the fat cat caught a rat in a hat— are especially fun and helps develop the early letter awareness skills necessary for learning to read.

**Save the (print) environment.** When riding in the car or venturing out in the community, ask your child to identify logos, find the letters of her name in signs, or point out other environmental print. (*There's a sign for the zoo. This big green sign says the name of the street where we need to turn.*) You will reinforce that letters make up words and words have meaning. Both are critical to future reading success.



Together, we will be there for our students—  
Gwinnett County Public Schools and YOU!

**Make the ordinary extraordinary!**

Source: Buice School Media Specialist Karen Willingham