

Learning
to read and write

A family affair!

For 5 to
12-year-olds



Parents are important when learning to read and write.

As a parent, you are a model for your child. Throughout elementary school, you play an important role in helping your child learn to read. Reading and writing are so closely related that when your child is reading, he is also picking up writing skills.

By spending time with your child, you create a reading partnership. Through your support, you pass on an interest in reading and writing. Encouraging your child to read and write will help him succeed at school. Offer your child this lifelong gift!

This pamphlet suggests ways you can help your child as he learns to read and write. Keep it close by and reread it from time to time.

**Reading
is a lifelong gift!**



Set up a routine
so that each day,
reading is
a source of enjoyment
and a way of life!



Reading should be
an interesting,
pleasant and fun time
with your child.

Give your child the opportunity to read about all kinds of subjects. He will gain vocabulary and will then be able to use new words when doing writing projects at school.

Encourage your child
by focusing on his successes.



Offer your child many opportunities to read.

Leave a note on the table. Write an encouraging e-mail or cut out newspaper articles your child will enjoy. Play board games that focus on reading words or short sentences.



Leave out in the open books, magazines, comics...

Leave them everywhere in the car, next to your child's bed, in the living room... Change them often.

How to make reading a pleasant time?

BEFORE

- Y** Take the time to look at the title and illustrations so that your child can imagine what the book is about.

Ask him to make connections with things he already knows: "What is this book about?"; "What does it make you think about?"; "Have you seen or heard about similar things?"

- O** Pay attention to his reading and ask him questions.

"Why have you picked this book?"; "Have you read books on this subject before?"; "May I read a few pages with you?"

DURING

- Y** Check to see if your child understands what he is reading.

Ask him to explain, in his own words, what he just read. Does he understand the new words? If your child is reading a story, ask him to guess what might happen next. Ask him to describe the characters and places in the story.

- O** Find out how his reading is going.

"How is your book coming along?"; "Is it interesting?"; "Tell me about what you read."; "What do you think is going to happen next?"

AFTER

- Y** Ask him what he learned or liked about what he has read.

"Which character would you like to be?"; "Why?"; "What did you learn from this book?"

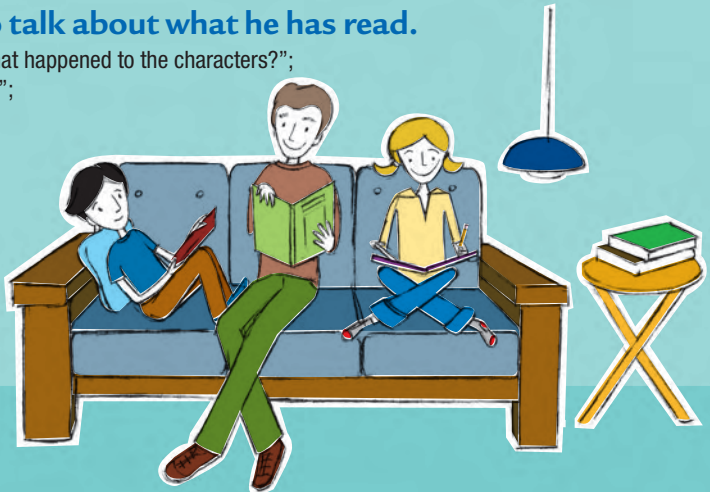
- O** Invite your child to talk about what he has read.

"Did you like the story?"; "What happened to the characters?"; "Did the ending surprise you?"; "Can I read your book?"

Legend

Y For younger students

O For older students



Show your child how reading and writing is important in life.

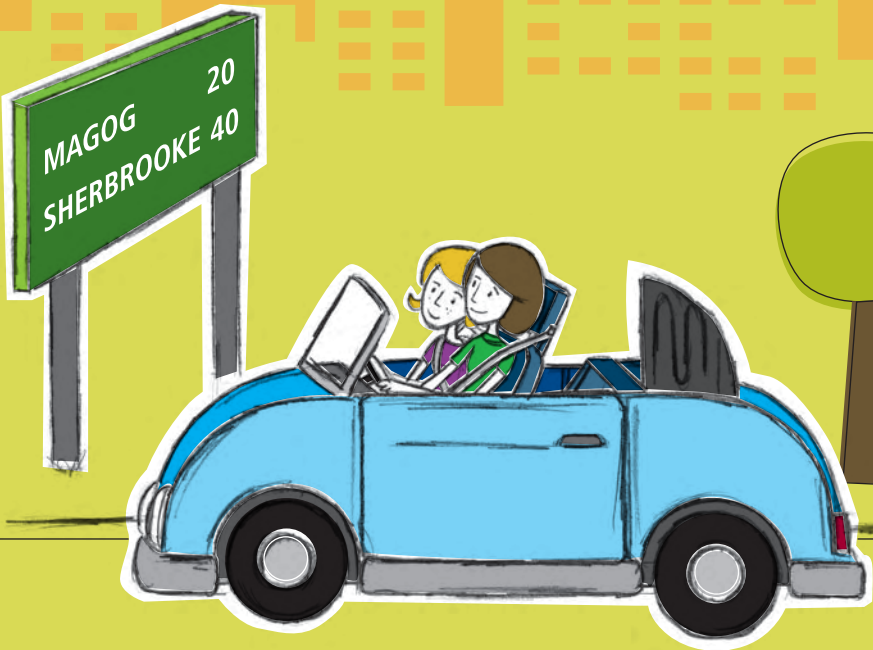
Ask your child to look up information you need:
in the phone book, recipe book, grocery list, on the computer...

Read and write regularly in front of your child.
Your child will learn to follow your example.

Talk to your child about when you read and write at home, at work, on trips and during outings:
reading the newspaper, writing letters, reading at the computer, reading a menu
in a restaurant...

Show your child documents from work, your mail, a magazine article...

Flip through a catalogue with your child to select an item of clothing or some sports equipment.
Draw his attention to the description, price and other written information.



Be aware of your child's likes and interests.

Together with your child, choose reading that interests him: according to his interests, dreams, pastimes...
For reading suggestions, visit the websites listed at the end of this pamphlet.

Encourage your child to read everything: sports magazines, comic books, books about animals, science, construction, occupations, art, history...



You're right.
It's that way!



Keep in touch with your child's teacher.

Tell the teacher your concerns and observations.
Your involvement may make the difference.

Your support and encouragement are good
for your child's self-esteem and will give him
confidence.



And the story continues...



Go to a nearby library or bookstore to choose books.
Ask for advice about new and interesting reading ideas.



Discover reading ideas for your child by visiting
these websites:

www.starfall.com
www.storylineonline.net
www.funbrain.com



This is the second in a series of three pamphlets. The first is for parents of children ages 0 to 5 and the third is for parents of children ages 12 to 15. You will find copies of the three pamphlets on the *Projet PRÉE* website: www.reussiteeducativeestrie.ca



To promote young people's success at school, several groups have joined together to create the *Table estrienne de concertation interordres en éducation (TECIE)*. They developed an action plan to help young people be successful in school. They mobilized many partners to implement this action plan through the Partners for Educational Success Estrie Project (*Projet PRÉE*).