

## DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF LITERACY

### This month's focus: Stamina

- Research findings suggest that students need to have access to books that they **want** to read. This encourages children engaging with the content, reading more, and increasing their reading behavior and achievement.
- Reading books of interest, children are able to focus on the content longer. This is called **reading stamina** and it is important to build because it directly connects to reading comprehension.
- Reading stamina, just like stamina with exercise, is a skill that needs to be **built up over time**.
- A new or reluctant reader may initially only have the stamina to read for 1-2 minutes. With support, practice and repetition their stamina will gradually increase.
- Asking your child questions about what they are reading will increase the amount of time they spend thinking about and reading the text.

Did you know that **13 minutes of reading each day equals 1 million words read in a year?**



**Ask your child questions to get them talking about what they are reading!**

- Where did the story take place? How is that similar to or different from where we live?
- How did that make you feel? Why?
- After a few pages ask children to close their eyes as you continue reading. Prompt students to **visualize** the story... "What do you see?" "What does that look like, sound like, feel like in your mind?" Creating mental pictures supports comprehension and allows students to make connections with the text.
- Include your thoughts about the text. This will encourage a conversation about their reading!

Did you know that **listening to someone read is a literacy skill?**



### What does all of that mean?

What happens outside of school is essential to your child's reading success. **We are on a mission to empower children to discover the joy and power of reading and create simple steps that you can take.** Here's the beautiful part: developing and fostering a culture of literacy is simply refocusing the things that you're already doing with your children.

Did you know that reading for just 13 minutes a night equals 1 million words read by the end of the year? Or that telling a story while your child is listening is a literacy skill? Did you know that listening to their older sibling read can help them hear how to fluently read through a story? **You don't need to be an expert, simply a partner!**



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**Does your child love to draw? Have them draw a comic or scenes from the story**

### More Ideas



Keep track of how long you are reading each night and make it a game.

- Start with just a few minutes and work your way up.
- Keeping track of this visually (e.g. a graph or chart on a piece of paper) will allow students to visually see their progress and feel proud of their brain!



Let children choose which book they want to read. If they are having a hard time, you can help them narrow it down. Switch it up by letting them try to read words or phrases and build some confidence.

**If reading before bed is difficult, try reading at a different time!**



### Who we are

We are Book Trust, a national early literacy non-profit. We increase access to high quality books of choice to empower children to discover the joy and power of reading. What does that mean? Well, each month of the school year, your students will choose \$7 worth of books at absolutely no cost to you that they choose.

**These books are theirs to keep, build home libraries and share with you.**



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