

Reading

FAMU 21st CCLC SMART Academies



“Parents, you are the Key to unlocking your child’s mind to Reading”

Once children learn to read, they need to read at least 25 on-level books per year in order to maintain and improve skills. Therefore, reading needs to become a part of the family routine. This includes making time for reading and keeping books around the house. Continue to read to your child for as long as your child chooses. When your child is ready to read on his or her own, stop whatever you are doing, take some time out of your day, sit by your child, and read something to yourself.

***Vocabulary** is important because readers use their oral vocabulary to make sense of the words they see in print, and readers must know what most of the words mean before they can understand what they are reading. Because readers learn more words when they hear the words, read the words, and use the words, exposure and practice is necessary. Talk with your children everyday.*

***Comprehension** is important because reading for meaning is the reason for reading. Start talking about the reading before and during the reading as well as after the reading. Help your child build the background knowledge necessary for the reading. Also help your child make connections to him or herself, connections to the world, or connections to another text. These conversations will help your child read with more understanding.*

***Fluency** is the ability to read with greater speed, accuracy, and expression. This is important because it frees readers to concentrate on reading for meaning. One of the best ways to improve fluency is to practice. Children should be invited to read books at their own level, books that are a little bit easier for them, books that are fun to read, and old favorites.*

***Remember** that getting books in the hands of children takes some work. Please continue to work toward that goal. Help your child find the books he or she might be most interested in reading. Make sure those books are available for whenever your child wishes to read. Offer praise when appropriate.*