



Ken Danby P.S. Home Reading Initiative

Helping your child become a better reader **is the single most important** thing that you can do to help your child to succeed in school—and in life. The importance of reading simply can't be overstated. Reading helps children in all school subjects. More important, it is the key to lifelong learning.

From the U.S. Department of Education

20 MINUTES A NIGHT MINIMUM!

Your child needs your help. Every child from grade Kindergarten to Grade 8 at Ken Danby P.S. is required to read 20 minutes every night as part of their regular homework. According to an EQAO survey of our primary students, only 18% of Ken Danby P.S. parents are reading every day with their child. We are, therefore, starting a home reading initiative to raise awareness and encourage every parent to set aside time every night to spend some quality time with their child and read.



For younger students you may read to them or with them. For older students you might want to read a great book to them that is beyond their reading level, or

simply read yourself as you keep them company as they read themselves. We want every student to have the maximum advantage of being successful at school. Research shows that a child who practices reading at home every day to supplement what they learn at school can significantly improve their success in every subject.

To help you get started, please read the following tips from the Ministry of Education provided in this Home Reading Initiative Newsletter.

Stay tuned for more ideas in Part 2 of this Series!

HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN TO READ –

A PARENT'S GUIDE

Excerpts from the Ontario Ministry of Education

➤ How can I help my child?

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When you help your child learn to read, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning.

Reading aloud to children is the best way to get them interested in reading. Before long they will grow to love stories and books. Eventually they will want to read on their own.

With the help of parents, children can learn how to read and can practise reading until they can read for their own enjoyment. Then they will have a whole world of information and knowledge at their fingertips!

➤ Make Reading Fun

Reading can be a lot of fun, not just for parents but for all family members. Here are some ways to get the most out of reading to your child:

- Read with drama and excitement! Use different voices for different characters in the story. Use your child's name instead of a character's name. Make puppets and use them to act out a story.



- Re-read your child's favourite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them, and choose books and authors that your child enjoys.
- Read stories that have repetitive parts and encourage your child to join in. Re-reading the same book will build your child's fluency which will aid his/her reading comprehension.
- Point to words as you read them. This will help your child make a connection between the words he or she hears you say and the words on the page.
- Read all kinds of material – stories, poems, information books, magazine and newspaper articles, and comics.
- Encourage relatives and friends to give your child books as gifts.

➤ Read Every Day

Children love routine, and reading is something that you and your child can look forward to every day. By taking the time to read with your child, you show him or her that reading is important and fun to do.



- Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child.
- Choose a comfortable spot to read, where you can be close to your child. Make it your "reading place"! Set aside a special shelf in that area for your child's books.
- Choose a variety of books.
- During reading stop and ask your child to form a mental picture of what is happening in the story to help their reading comprehension.
- Praise your child for his or her ideas and participation!
- When you and your child are away from home, take along books, magazines, and books-on-tape for your child to read and listen to.
- Keep reading to your child even after he or she has learned to read on his or her own. By reading stories that will interest your child but that are above his or her reading level, you can stretch your child's understanding and keep alive the magic of shared reading.

➤ Listen to your child read

As your child reads, listen to him or her read aloud. Reading to you gives your child a chance to practise and to improve his or her reading skills.



As you listen to your child, remember that your reactions are important. Above all, listen without interrupting. Be enthusiastic and praise your child as often as you can. If possible, be specific with your praise so that your child knows what he or she is doing well.

- Show your child that you are enjoying the story by indicating interest and by asking questions.
- Give your child time to figure out tricky words, and show your child how he or she can learn from mistakes.
- Try to have your child read aloud to you at times when there will be no interruptions.
- Make sure that your child selects books that aren't too difficult. Don't worry if the books your child chooses are a little easier than the ones he or she reads at school.
- Encourage your child to "listen" to his or her own reading. Listening will help him or her hear mistakes and try to fix them.
- Take turns reading with your child - let them do one sentence or page, then you do one, or try reading together (choral reading) .
- Talk about the story before, during and after your child has read it, to make sure that he or she understands it as fully as possible.

Try to read with your child, no matter their age, as often as possible. It's the best thing you can do to help him or her learn at school! It also allows you to spend time together in an enjoyable way and to build a strong and healthy relationship.

