



Parents,

As the State Superintendent of North Carolina's public schools, I want you to know that your child's success in school and beyond is our top priority. One of our main goals is to help students read at or above grade level by the end of 3rd grade. Right now, less than half of our 4th graders have the reading skills they need. It is urgent that we correct this situation, and we need your help!

All subjects in school require reading skills. Our teachers practice reading with students during the school day, but that is not enough.

You play an important part in making sure your child is on the right track. We offer some tips on the other side that can help you practice at home every day.

Check with your child's teacher on their progress and where they should be by the end of the school year. You can go to www.read.nc.gov for reading tips and a list of other reading-support programs in your area.

Together, parents, caretakers, and educators can help every child in North Carolina become a great reader.

Thank you for being a partner with us in this important mission.

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SIMPLE STEPS TO BUILD A STRONG READER



Read with your child every day – just 20 minutes a day will help your child read on grade level.



Talk to your child at the grocery store, dinner table, and driving in the car – introducing them to everything you see around you helps them learn new words and practice their speaking skills.



Sing rhyming songs, read rhyming books, and say tongue twisters with your child – this helps them learn new sounds in words.



Tell fun stories and have your child tell you stories.



Have your child **write** – writing grocery lists and notes or letters helps children connect spoken words to written words.



Ask your child questions about what they read – talking about the words in the book helps them understand what they are reading.



Download free reading apps – your child can practice reading on your phone, tablet, or computer.



Visit NC Reads at www.read.nc.gov – find great resources that can help your child continue learning when they are not in school.

