

# READING AND WRITING AT HOME

**Helping your child at home on a regular basis can make a significant difference in helping them to be better readers.**

## READING

Help them choose simple books that they can read with only about 1 word in 10 words missed.

Read the book with them pointing at the words as you read. Ham it up -- use good expression!

Next, read the book together. You point at the words.

Last, they read independently. We want them to practice until they become an "expert". They can practice reading into a tape recorder so they can hear their own progress.

If your child stumbles on a word, TELL IT TO THEM! We will be working in class on skills to figure it out independently. You can make sure they are having fun with the reading.

## WRITING

There is a significant relationship between fluency in reading and fluency in writing. Encourage you child to write in journals on a daily basis.

Let them choose a topic (pets, trips, letters to relatives, sports, etc.).

**DON'T SPELL FOR THEM AS THEY WRITE!** Research is very strong that spelling improves best when kids write on their own. It will be very phonetic at first but will become more "standard" as they read and write more. Just say "say it slow and write the sounds you hear".

NOW you can help:

1. Have them read it to you.
2. Have them read it to you again, slowly this time. You write it in standard spelling at the bottom. Make sure that they don't think you are "correcting" their spelling. You are only showing them "book" spelling. Don't let them erase and change their words - it is hard for us, as teachers, to see progress if they do.
3. Have them read it again to you but this time from the standard spelling at the bottom. This helps their reading ability.
4. Provide nice pens and crayons for them to illustrate their story.