



# Reading is Brain Food!

## Crossroads and the Rice Street Library Celebrate National Family Literacy Day

Crossroads and the Rice Street Library are working together to give all Crossroads students a library card. Please fill out the library card application in your child's backpack. You can either return it to school and we will bring it to the Rice Street Library. You can also bring it to your nearest library.

Libraries are great resources for families. Not only is there an endless supply of books, but many community libraries offer tutoring programs and special programs for children of all ages. The Rice Street Library offers homework help from 3:00 – 7:00 pm Monday – Thursday, and 1:00-4:00 pm on Sunday. It's free and open to students of all ages. For more information go to: <http://www.stpaul.lib.mn.us/homework/>

## Free Software for Early Readers

The National Center for Family Literacy is giving families, at no cost, a computer-based reading program called *StudyDog*. *StudyDog* is a supplemental reading program for children preK- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The program can help students learn the core reading skills if the child is ready to read and can help children as much as a year behind in reading do better at school.

*StudyDog* teaches specific reading skills that children need to practice to become better readers through multimedia and game-like activities. Free downloads of *StudyDog* can be found at <http://www.familit.org/studydog/index.cfm>.

## Reading Websites for Parents

**Reading is Fundamental** - Their web page includes activities for parents to do with their children. [www.rif.org/parents](http://www.rif.org/parents)

**Help Your Child Become a Reader** – Publication from the Department of Education. [www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/reader/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/reader/index.html)

**National Education Association** – Reading Tips for Parents. [www.nea.org/parents/readingmattershome.html](http://www.nea.org/parents/readingmattershome.html)

**Minnesota Literacy Council** - Literacy services for adults and children. [www.themlc.org](http://www.themlc.org)

## Choosing Books for Kids

Now that you've got that library card, how do you help your child select a book from the millions that are out there? Here are some ideas:

- ❖ Look for books about things that interest your child. What are her hobbies? What does he talk about?
- ❖ Choose books that are related to things happening in your family. Are you planning a vacation? Visiting relatives? Moving to a new home? Getting a pet?
- ❖ Use books to learn about and celebrate special events. Are you celebrating a holiday or birthday?
- ❖ Once your child is reading, can she easily read the book to herself? Can an older sibling

read the book to a younger sibling?

- ❖ If your child is not yet reading or just starting to read, look for books he can read on his own, like wordless picture books or books with very few words.
- ❖ When you are at the library, are there any books that grab your child's attention? Does she have a favorite author, illustrator or character?
- ❖ Ask a librarian – they always have great suggestions.

For more information on choosing books and book recommendations by age, visit these websites:  
<http://www.kidsreads.com> or  
<http://www.stpaul.lib.mn.us/families>.

## What's Hot at Crossroads?

Here are some book selections from Ms. Frye:

### Pre K -K

No, David! By David Shannon  
Books by Rosemary Wells (Great Read alouds)  
Dinosaur books of any type

### 1st - 3rd

The Little Bill series by Bill Cosby  
The Clifford Series by Norman Bridwell  
Nate the Great series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat  
Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park

The Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne

### 4th-6th

Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear by Lensey Namioka  
The Dear America series by Mary Pope Osborne  
Kate DiCamillo's books  
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen  
A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket



## Reading with Your Child

1. Spend time with your children talking, telling stories and singing songs.
2. Read to and with your children every day.
3. Let your children help choose the books you read together.
4. Find a comfortable place to read and sit close to your children.
5. Change your voice and the pace that you read to fit the story.
6. After reading a book, talk about the story.
7. Let your children see you reading books, newspapers, and magazines.
8. Take your children to the library regularly.

## Consejos Para Leer Con Su Hijo

1. Dedíquese tiempo a su hijo hablando, contando cuentos, cantando canciones.
2. Léale a su hijo, lea con su hijo todos los días.
3. Permítale a su hijo escoger el libro que van a leer.
4. Encuentren un lugar confortable para leer y siéntese al lado del niño.
5. Cambie la voz y el ritmo de la lectura de acuerdo a la historia.
6. Después de leer el libro, hablen sobre la historia.
7. Permita que los niños la vean leyendo libros, periódicos y revistas.
8. Lleve a los niños regularmente a la biblioteca.

## Tswv Yim Nyeem Ntawv Nrog Koj Cov Me Nyuam

1. Siv sij hawm nrog koj cov me nyuam sib tham, hais dab neeg thiab hu nkauj.
2. Nyeem ntawv rau koj cov me nyuam txhua hnuv.
3. Cia koj cov me nyuam pab xaiv cov phau ntawv uas neb nyeem uake.
4. Nrhiav ib qhov chaw uas zoo xi nyob nyeem ntawv thiab nyob kom ze koj cov me nyuam.
5. Hloov koj lub suab thiab hais kom haum rau zaj dab neeg uas koj nyeem ntawd.
6. Tom qab nyeem phau ntawv tas, sib tham txog zaj dab neeg.
7. Cia koj cov me nyuam pom koj nyeem ntawv, ntawv xov xwm, thiab lwm yam ntawv.
8. Coj koj cov me nyuam mus tom tsev ceev ntawv kom cuag ncuva.

## Reading with Older Students

The National Reading Panel summarized research related to five critical areas of reading:

1. **Phonemic Awareness**—the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words.

2. **Phonics**—instruction that teaches the relationships between the letters of written language and the sounds of spoken language.

3. **Fluency**—the ability to read quickly and accurately with expression.

4. **Vocabulary**—the words we know to communicate effectively.

5. **Comprehension**—the ability to understand what is read.

Here are a few things parents can do in each of the five areas of reading (depending on the age of the child and reading ability):

### Phonemic Awareness

\* Sing songs, say chants and poems, and share nursery rhymes.

\*Ask your child to think of and share as many words as he can that begin with the same sound.

\*Say a word and ask your child to say as many words as she can that rhyme with that word.

### Phonics

\*As you read with your child, point to letters and ask him to name them.

\*Make an alphabet book together with the letters and drawings for each letter.

\*Encourage your child to write notes, lists, letters to family and friends, and stories.

### Fluency

\*As you read, pause and show your child where sentences begin and end.

\*Read books together that your child is interested in by taking turns reading a page.

\*Encourage your child to read lots of different things—books, magazines, newspaper, letters, signs.

### Vocabulary

\*Talk with your child often about family events and interests, their friends, and activities at school.

\*As you read or talk with your child, draw his attention to new words and what they mean.

\*When reading with your child, ask her to describe the illustrations and then point to words in the text that match her descriptions.

### Comprehension

\*Encourage your child to tell stories and ask him questions that focus on the characters, the story's message, and the beginning, middle and end of the story.

\*When reading with your child, encourage her to predict what might happen next in the story; discuss events in the story and compare to her own experiences.

\*Visit interesting places (museums, zoos, parks, cities), do things together (cooking, shopping, sports) and then talk about the experience with your child.

\*Encourage your child to write for different purposes (lists, letters, stories, reports) and different audiences (family, friends, general public).

\*After your child has read a book, ask him to talk about the meaning of the book.