

Supporting Language & Literacy at 6 Years

Supporting Your Child's Phonics Skills at Home

Phonics is as important as ever. As children advance as readers, they need to be able to blend letter sounds without stumbling over words. You can help your child become a confident reader by helping them understand the relationships between letters and sounds.

- Listen to your child read aloud every day. If they struggle with a word, help them sound it out. If they still can't get it, tell them the word so they don't get discouraged.
- Revisit familiar books. Having them read (and re-read) favorite books aloud with you can build their confidence. If they have the words memorized, encourage them to slow down and notice the words on the page.
- Engage your child in a conversation when in the car, walking the neighborhood, at the store, or in the community.
- Invite your child to ask questions about something heard on the television, radio, or in a conversation.
- Encourage your child to add more details when talking about a favorite book, website, television show, or movie.

Ask your child's teacher how you can highlight phonics at home. Also be sure to share any concerns you may have.

Language & literacy skills at 6 years:

- shows they understand the practices of standard sentence structure and usage when writing or speaking
- knows and applies the relationship between sounds and letters to decode grade-level words
- explains major differences between texts that tell stories and texts that give information
- reads with necessary accuracy, appropriate speed, and expression to support comprehension
- uses words and phrases learned through books (read alone and read-to)
- asks and answers questions about what a speaker says in order to gather additional information
- describes people, places, things, and events with related detail, expressing ideas and feelings clearly
- uses words and phrases learned through conversations and books (read alone and read-to)
- speaks in complete sentences

There are lots of great books to explore at this age. Your child's teacher will likely have some wonderful suggestions. Here's a short list of some of our favorites:

- *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein
- *Miss Nelson is Missing!* by Harry G. Allard Jr.
- *What Should Danny Do?* (The Power to Choose series) by Adir Levy
- *Do Not Bring Your Dragon to the Library* by Julie Gassman
- *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly!* by Lucille Colandro
- *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear* by Lindsay Mattick