

Questions

Parents Can Ask...



About Reading Improvement

At the heart of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) is a promise to raise standards for all children and to help all children meet those standards. Reading is a critical part of NCLB because when children learn to read, they have the key that opens the door to education. Without this key, many children are left behind. When speaking with your child's teacher, use the following questions to help you gather the information you need about your child's reading ability. Write the answers in the boxes provided and remember if you do not understand something, ask to have it explained thoroughly.

If you have questions about your child's overall reading progress, ask...

1. What is my child's grade level in reading? What does that mean she can do?

2. Where does she need to improve?

3. Is there a difference between how well my child reads individual words and how well she understands what she reads? If so, what can we do to improve the weaker areas?

4. Are you using a specific program to teach my child? If so, what skills does this program teach?

5. If you are not using a specific program, what strategies are you using to teach my child to identify words, read smoothly and understand what he reads?

6. What kinds of things are you doing to help my child succeed in reading?
(such as provide support by a reading specialist, provide different materials)

7. What can I do at home to help my son/daughter read well?
(For example: Can you suggest workshops, reading lists, parent/child materials that I may borrow, or website supports?)

8. How will I be notified about my child's reading gains? Can you update me every 2-3 weeks?



If you have questions about Word Recognition, Sounds, and Fluency in Reading, ask...

1. Has my child ever been tested for language and sound awareness? If so, how recently and what did the testing show?

2. What is being done in the classroom to help my child avoid pausing unnecessarily at words?

3. What strategies are being taught to help my child work through difficult sounds or words when reading?

4. What are some books, poems, nursery rhymes, word games, books, videos, audio materials, etc. that I can use at home to help my child with word recognition, sounds and/or reading aloud?

5. For practicing reading at home, would you help me select material(s) that my child can read comfortably (i.e., where 90% of the words are ones my child knows)?

If You Have Questions about Reading Comprehension, ask...



1. When my child is having trouble understanding what she reads, what do you do to help her understand the material?

2. Would you show me what you are doing?

3. Can you tell me about some other activities that I can do at home to help her understand what she reads?

4. What resources can you give me to use at home to help my child?

5. What kinds of activities can we do before and after my child has read to help her understand the information?



If you have Questions about Testing, ask...

1. Will my child be able to pass the state's End-of-Grade test in reading?

2. What are you doing to prepare her for the test?

3. If your child is not working on the same reading level as many of same-age peers, ask: Can you tell me how you are measuring her progress in reading to make sure that she continues to progress and does not fall further behind?

All services are provided at no cost for families! For more information, please contact:

**Parent Partners... North Carolina Parent Information and Resource Center
a project of the
exceptional children's assistance center**

907 Barra Row, Suites 102/103, Davidson, NC 28036
704-892-1321 • 800-962-6817 (*parent info line*) • www.ecac-parentcenter.org

This document was created through a collaborative effort by parents, educational consultants, teachers, professors from UNC Chapel Hill and UNC Charlotte, and ECAC Staff.

Funding has been provided by The North Carolina State Improvement Project, Public Schools of North Carolina, Exceptional Children Division