

Oakland Reads

www.oaklandreads.org



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A decorative graphic on the right side of the page depicts a night sky with various celestial bodies like a yellow sun, a grey moon, and several planets. Scattered throughout the sky are various school-related items: an open book with yellow pages, a blue book, a pencil, and a stack of books at the bottom right.

What is Oakland Reads (OR)?

Overview of the website

How to Navigate the OR Website

A guide to using the site's different features based on your interests

Why use OR as a community partner or family member?
Explaining the purpose

**Why use
Oakland Reads
as a tutor,
program staff, or
family member?**





**Reading Skills
Overview**

News

**Reading with
Children**

What is Oakland Reads?



8 MAIN READING SKILLS

Scroll down to see a description of 8 main reading skills, and click on any of them to learn more about that skill and find resources and activities to support your child in developing that particular skill.



AWARENESS OF
WRITTEN WORDS
AND LANGUAGE

Teachers Call This Skill:
PRINT AWARENESS



KNOWING
THE ABCS

Teachers Call This Skill:
LETTER KNOWLEDGE



KNOWING
SOUNDS IN
SPOKEN
LANGUAGE

Teachers Call This Skill:
**PHONOLOGICAL
AWARENESS**



KNOWING THE
SOUNDS OF
WRITTEN LETTERS



KNOWING HOW
TO READ
ACCURATELY
AND QUICKLY



KNOWING THE
MOST COMMON
WORDS

Reading Skills Overview

HOW DO WE LEARN TO READ?

WHAT SKILLS DO WE NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL READERS?

There are specific reading skills, or domains, that a child needs to master in order to become a successful reader. They need to be able to *decode* written language (sound out familiar and unfamiliar words) and *comprehend oral language* (understand what words mean and how language works).

A SIMPLE VIEW OF READING

DECODING x ORAL LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION = READING COMPREHENSION

Fluency
Phonics
Phonemic Awareness

Comprehension
Vocabulary

Comprehension
Vocabulary
Fluency
Phonics

Watch explainers & learn about activities



ASK QUESTIONS
BUILD VOCABULARY
CONNECT TO KIDS' WORLDS

Teachers Call This Skill: **VOCABULARY**

Children must understand the meaning of a word to help them understand the world around them and succeed in school.

Another goal is for children to build their vocabulary by hearing as many new words as they can from life experiences, reading about new subjects, and through conversations.

WATCH & LEARN

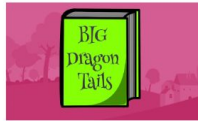
Understanding the meaning of what's read



How Making Connections to a Story Will Transform Your Child's Understanding

ASK QUESTIONS
BUILD VOCABULARY
CONNECT TO KIDS' WORLDS

The ABCs of Active Reading
Reading to your kids is fun, but reading with your kids can shape their future. When you engage with your kids while reading, they learn more.



The Powerful Strategy to Help Your Child Understand What They Read

Captions and Languages

To watch videos with subtitles, click the settings icon in the lower right-hand corner, next to "subtitles," and then "English." To see subtitles in another language, after selecting English, just click "auto-translate" and then select the language of your choice.

TRY THESE ACTIVITIES

Read Every Day

Reading aloud to your child and having your child read books on their own will be the best way to increase their vocabulary. Books provide words they won't encounter in everyday conversations as the language of books is more complex and formal than talking. A great story also provides context and illustrations for learning a new word.

Use Rich Language

Become aware of the language you use with your child. Other parents will simply show how they speak, but it will help their child more easily understand what they mean. Instead, aim to use "rich vocabulary," use interesting words and phrases and book descriptive words. Give your child every advantage and be intentional by being more specific with the words you choose. Your effort will expand their world of knowledge.

Instead of, "Can you give me that?"

Try, "Could you hand me the plastic dish towel? The one with fringe on the end."

Repeat It Often

A child needs to hear a new word about 10 times before they begin to use it in their own vocabulary. Take advantage of opportunities to use the new words they're learning in your conversations with them.

Kid-Friendly Definition

When reading aloud to a child there will be words that your child does not understand. Children usually don't tell us because they are unaware of what they don't know. After reading a page, make sure to ask your child if they understood a word that appeared twice or challenging. Explain what the word means in a "kid-friendly" way, in words they understand, and look for clues in the pictures that will help your child understand.

For example, "You go down what terrified mouse? Look at the boy's face - he's very scared! Terrified means to be very afraid. Can you say 'terrified'? Have you ever been terrified of something?"

Make a Connection

When you are pointing out new words to your child make sure they tell you how they understand the meaning of the word. Can they connect this new word to something they have experienced?

"Can you tell me what the word 'void' means from the story? Have you ever seen something that was 'void'?"

Take Turns When Talking

Ask your child questions about what they're interested in, their toys, their favorite characters, their favorite books, make eye contact and listen closely as they speak. Take turns when talking with them. As parents, we sometimes can get in a habit of giving instructions but not engaging in conversations with our kids. Having meaningful discussions at home helps children develop their vocabulary by allowing them to incorporate the new words they have learned into their conversations.

Use Words from School

Vocabulary words are usually gathered from different subjects like science and math or stories they've read in school. If the teacher sends a note home about the theme for the week, use those words in your everyday conversation. If students are learning about rocks, liquids and gases in science, ask your child to tell you what those words mean. Describe how you've used those words.

Example: "When I take this butter from the top out of the freezer it's as hard as a rock - it's solid. Then I warm it up on the stove and it becomes liquid again. If I boil it too long, the liquid begins to evaporate into the air as steam. That's a gas! You can see it steaming up from the pot and fogging up the window."

Resources



My Slime is Alive!

DOWNLOADABLE AND PRINTABLE DECODABLE BOOKS

Courtesy of Community Reading Buddies

Click on any title below to access phonics (decodable) books that focus on particular letter sounds. Use the arrows at the bottom of the table to see more books.

Decodable Books for Beginning Readers

Short Vowels: A, E, I, O, U Short Sounds	Long Vowels: A, E, I, O, U Long Sounds	Consonants: Single Consonant-Focused	Consonants: Multiple Consonants-Focused
Pat, Tap, Sat (level A) /a/	Trey the Horse Gets a New Home Long /a/	Day on the Farm (level A) very basic letters & sounds	Ant's Mitten phonemes s, t, n, l, c, f, b, m, d, r, short a
Sam /a/	Kate and Jake Long /a/	The Sunset Pond /b/	SPELD Books Set 1 (includes 10 books) s, a, t, p, n
The Cat /a/	*NEW!* Kayla Skates Long /a/	Dot and Dan /d/	SPELD Books Set 2 (includes 10 books) c, k, ck, e, h, r, m, d
NEW! Abs! /a/	*NEW!* My Slime is Alive! Long /i/	Fran Can Flip /f/	SPELD Books Set 3 (includes 10 books) g, o, u, l, f, b
Pam and the Mat /a/	Nice Mice Long /i/	We Can't Stop /g/	SPELD Books Set 4 (includes 10 books) ai, j, ck, ie, ee, or
Cal /a/	Rose the Mole Long /o/	Hal Likes Hats /h/	SPELD Books Set 5 (includes 10 books) z, w, ng, oo (book), oo (room)

News/Learning Opportunities



The screenshot shows the Oakland Reads website. At the top left is the "OAKLAND READS" logo. To its right is a "MENU" button and a language dropdown menu set to "English". Further right is a logo for "A PROJECT OF OAKLAND LITERACY COALITION". The main heading is "NEWS" in large pink letters, accompanied by an illustration of two green books. Below this, the date "May 2023" is displayed, followed by "Updated: Jun 28". The main text reads: "School is almost out! A fun way to keep kids reading during the summer is to sign up for the Oakland Public Library's Summer Reading Program. From May 27 to August 5, people of all ages can register to participate in OPL's annual summer program - there's a reading challenge and lots of fun in-person events. When you play, you can qualify to win prizes at the end of the program by completing a reading log, participating in OPL's online programs, or getting involved in your community." At the bottom, there is a pink button that says "Go to OPL's Summer Reading Page".

OAKLAND READS

MENU English

A PROJECT OF OAKLAND LITERACY COALITION

NEWS

May 2023

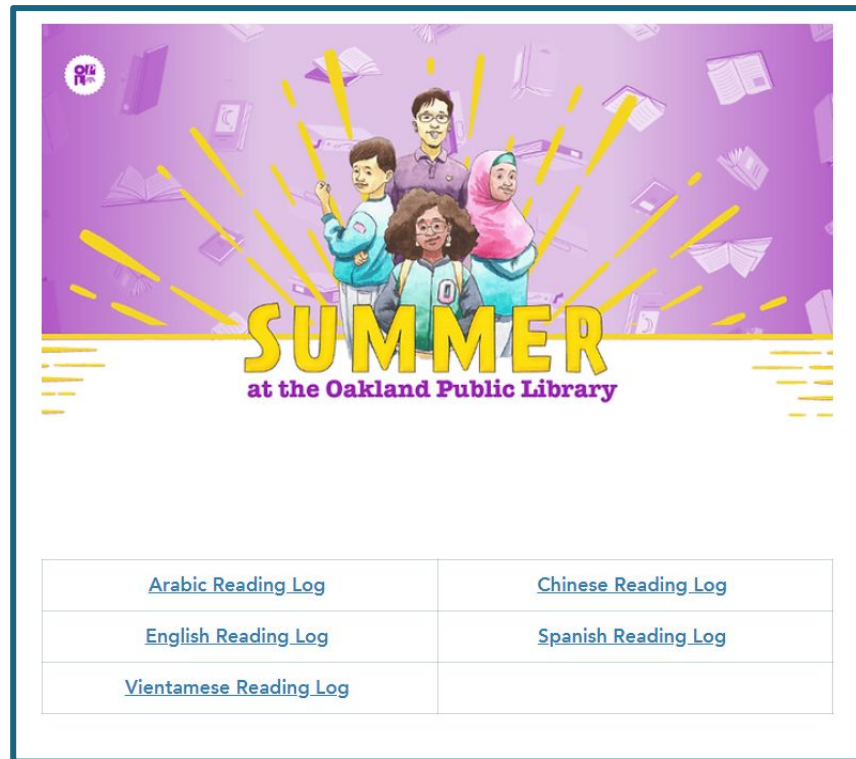
Updated: Jun 28

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When you play, you can qualify to win prizes at the end of the program by completing a reading log, participating in OPL's online programs, or getting involved in your community.

[Go to OPL's Summer Reading Page](#)



The graphic features a purple background with yellow rays emanating from the center. In the center, there are illustrations of four diverse people (two children and two adults) standing together. Above them are several open books and a small circular logo with "OPL" and "14". Below the people, the word "SUMMER" is written in large, bold, yellow letters, and "at the Oakland Public Library" is written in smaller purple letters below it.

Arabic Reading Log	Chinese Reading Log
English Reading Log	Spanish Reading Log
Vietnamese Reading Log	

READING WITH CHILDREN



Children can use help from adults with their reading at all stages of their childhoods.

For babies and young children, adults can read to them and let them explore books by playing with them. As children grow, they need support to start recognizing letters, sounding out words, becoming accurate/fluent readers, and understanding what they read. Set aside time to listen to your child read, ask them questions, and talk about the story with them.

Adults can also support childrens' reading development by reading to them or letting them listen to audiobooks or videos of read alouds.

Reading with Children

Reading Skill Videos

Reading Skill Videos

Play Video

READING rockets

Q Search video...

Next →

STORYTIME VIDEOS



Watching videos of storytimes can be a great way to support your child's reading development at home. You can find a video of almost any common book being read aloud now, sometimes even by the author of the book! Here are some of our favorite resources for storytime videos.

Reading with Children



Storytime with Mr Limata

Mr. Limata is an Oakland educator who does live readings of children's books aimed towards K-5th graders. You can find videos of past storytimes on his [Youtube page](#) or on [Facebook page](#).



OUSD Storytime Video Menu

Click on the link to the grade level you want to see, then click on the book cover image and it will take you to a page that has a storytime video link + ideas for what adults can do before, during and after viewing.

- [Kinderparten Video Menu](#)
- [First Grade Video Menu](#)
- [Second Grade Video Menu](#)
- [3rd - 5th Grade Video Menu](#)



Tandem Bay Area Multilingual Storytime

Tandem has a great selection of storytime videos in English, Spanish, Cantonese, Tagalog, and more! Geared towards children 0-5. [A-Z Storytimes and Activity Guides](#)



Book Connections Book Readings

Book Connections is a free resource for California Residents. They have thousands of [storytime videos](#) for PreK-12th grade.

Click on the book title and then look for "Video Book Reading" or "Complete Reading videos"



Resources for Concerned Families

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR THAT A CHILD MAY STRUGGLE WITH READING



Has not been able to master letters and sounds, despite practicing at home and school



When trying to read, they make guesses that don't resemble the word on the page



After repeatedly practicing sight words, they cannot recall them or commit them to memory



Your child was a "late talker" as a toddler



Cannot sound out or blend sounds, shows intense frustration or avoidance when asked to try

- Access resources, and suggestions for younger and school age children
- Learn more about dyslexia
- Get information about how the assessment process works