

Parents' CLIPBOARD

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

BY THE PARENTS & READING COMMITTEE OF THE COLORADO COUNCIL, INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

Supporting Your Children By Reading at Home

Beginning Reader Activities

- Encourage children to bring home books from the school library and take books from home to read at school. (*Cross-Country Cat* by Mary Calhoun, Erick Ingraham)
- Set aside a regular time and place for books so that reading them becomes as natural as eating and sleeping. (*If You Decide to Go to the Moon* by Faith McNulty, Steven Kellogg)
- Read alternate pages, ask each other questions, and discuss the story. Children can predict outcomes, discuss how the characters feel, and relate the events to their own experiences. (*David Goes to School* by David Shannon)

Independent Reader Activities

- Encourage children to develop an interest in a variety of genres such as biography, poetry, and historical fiction. Personal interests and hobbies offer ideas for the child's personal library. (*Comeback Kid* by John Elway)
- Compare and contrast video adaptations of children's books. Be sure to take along books on tape for the car



during long trips. (*The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks)

- Challenge readers to compare and contrast books. This is especially interesting with series of books which have the same characters. (*Bunnicula* and *Bunnicula Strikes Again* by James Howe)

Healthy Vision = Success in School

Studies indicate vision is the key element (almost 80%) of the learning process during a child's first 12 years. When children have undetected vision problems, school can become a struggle. Signs that your child may be experiencing vision difficulties in the classroom include:

- Trouble finishing written assignments
- Losing their place when reading
- Having a short attention span when doing close work
- Holding reading material closer than normal
- Making errors when copying from a classroom board

- Rubbing their eyes and complaining of headaches and fatigue

The American Optometric Association encourages comprehensive eye exams be performed at 6 months old, 3 years old, upon entering school, and every two years after that. A school vision test or a pediatrician's screening is not a substitute for a thorough eye examination. For more information about locating eye doctors who offer free eye exams for children who are not covered by health insurance, call Vision USA — 1-800-766-4466.

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 “If you want children to improve, let them overhear the nice things you say about them to others.”

DR. HAIM GINOTT

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