

# WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS

A Parent Guide to Reading Recovery®



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This handbook may be copied and distributed at schools implementing Reading Recovery®

## A note to parents/guardians

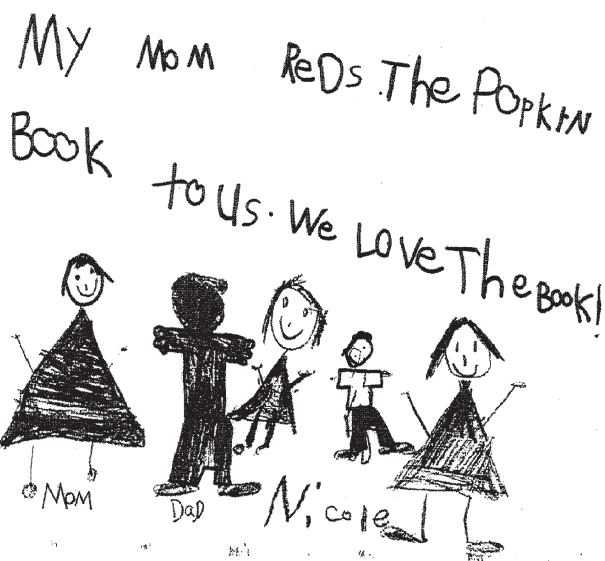
Dear Parents/Guardians,

This guide is written to help ensure that your child gets the maximum benefit from his/her time in Reading Recovery. As parents/guardians, you are your child's first teacher, and your enthusiasm for your child's developing reading and writing abilities is important. You can be your child's cheerleader and help your child learn to love reading and writing.



Did you know?

Research shows that children who read to, or with, someone at home make more progress in reading than those who do not share reading at home.

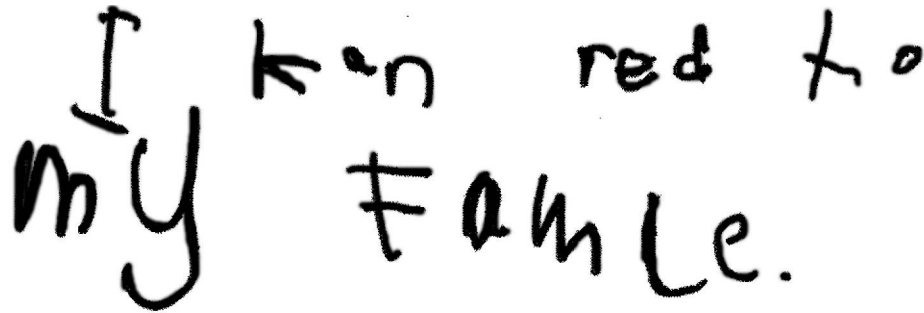


For more information about Reading Recovery, visit <http://readingrecovery.org/reading-recovery/implementation/reading-recovery-works-for-parents>

## Reading Recovery®

Reading Recovery is an early intervention for first-grade children. After rich pre-school and kindergarten experiences some children need an extra boost to help them become successful readers and writers. This would be something extra, in addition to all the reading and writing your child is doing in his/her classroom. Reading Recovery provides that boost to your child through individual teaching with a specially trained teacher. The teacher designs a program for your child based on your child's own strengths and needs. Reading Recovery is a short term intervention whose goal is to help your child make accelerated progress. Your child's progress will enable him/her to become a successful reader and writer.

Reading Recovery will allow your child to experience success in reading and writing within the first-grade school year.



I can read to  
my family.

### The Reading Recovery® Lesson

Every day your child will have a 30-minute lesson with the Reading Recovery teacher. During each lesson your child will have an opportunity to read several books and write a short story. The lessons follow a framework but are individually designed to meet the needs of your child. The teacher is specially trained to make it easy for your child to use what he/she knows and to increase his/her competence in reading and writing. The framework of the lesson is:

#### Re-reading familiar books

Every day your child picks stories he/she has read before. The teacher then helps your child read smoothly and in an interesting way.

#### Check on yesterday's new book

Your child reads yesterday's new book all by him/herself and the teacher takes a record of his/her reading. This helps the teacher observe what your child can do and decide what would be most important to teach next.



### Letter and word work

The teacher uses magnetic letters and other materials to help your child learn more about letters and words.

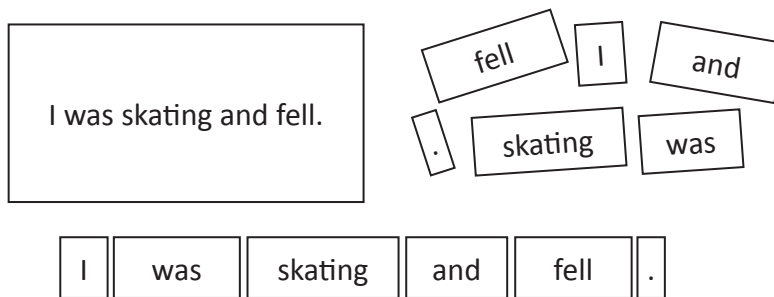


### Writing stories

The teacher helps your child to compose his/her own story. The teacher teaches your child how to write new words, record sounds of unknown words and to use what he/she knows to write new words.

### Cut-up story

The teacher writes your child's story on a strip of paper and cuts the story into words and/or parts. The child puts the story together and checks that it is correct.



### Reading a new book

The teacher chooses a new book for your child every day. After the teacher introduces the book to your child, he/she reads it. The teacher then helps him/her with the hard parts. The teacher decides what would be the most important new learning for your child to achieve through the reading of this book.

**Every Reading Recovery lesson provides many opportunities for your child to grow as a reader and writer. The Reading Recovery teacher is specially trained to ensure that every lesson helps your child make rapid progress in reading and writing.**

## How you can help your child with his/her Reading Recovery work

### **Praising your child's efforts in reading and writing**

When you notice your child's improvement, it is important to let him/her know. Your encouragement makes a big difference in your child's success.

### **Daily attendance**

Daily attendance is very important for success in school for all children. It is especially important for children in Reading Recovery. The Reading Recovery teacher schedules a 30-minute period each day to work with your child and this special time is valuable. Your child should not be absent unless he/she is sick. Missing daily lessons means your child will make slower progress.

### **Listening to your child read**

It is important to read to your child, but it is also important to listen to him/her read to you. Your child will be bringing home little books that he/she has read at school with a Reading Recovery teacher. It is **very important** that your child read these books at home. The more your child practices reading, the better he/she will be able to read.

Suggestions for listening to your child read:

- Praise his/her efforts
- If he/she gets stuck, encourage your child to 'try it'
- After that, tell the child the word
- After reading, ask your child to tell you about a favorite part of the story or a favorite picture

### **Doing the cut-up story**

Your child will bring home his/her cut-up story in an envelope each day. You can help by:

- Watching him/her put it together
- Listening to him/her read the story back to you
- Encouraging your child to check the cut-up story if he/she made a mistake

### **Returning the Reading Recovery books to school**

As mentioned above, your child will be bringing home books that he/she has read at school during the Reading Recovery lesson. It is important that the books are returned each day so that your child's teacher can send home new books.

### **Getting enough sleep**

Your child works hard in his/her classroom and in the Reading Recovery lesson everyday. To do his/her best, your child needs to go to bed early and get enough rest.

## How you can help your child become a successful reader and writer

Becoming a successful reader and writer has been shown to be the most important ability for later success in education, employment and in future life. It all starts at home with young children talking to and with siblings and adults. Talking helps children to expand on their vocabulary and understanding of the world. The ability to carry on a conversation is important for reading development. **Remember, it is better to talk too much rather than too little with a small child.**

### Writing Tips

- Have some blank paper and crayons, pencils or markers for your child to use
- When your child draws a picture, encourage him/her to write something about the picture
- Encourage your child to write lists, telephone messages, letters, stories, etc.
- Have your child read his/her writing to you
- Make labels for things in your house
- Write letters or cards to each other
- Make a list of things to do together, or a shopping list
- Praise your child's efforts and don't expect all the words to be spelled correctly

### Reading Tips

- Just before bedtime is a good time to read to your child
- Turn the TV off when you are reading to your child
- Talk about the story and the pictures while you read. Ask your child to find things in the pictures
- Let your child read along, even if he /she is not really reading
- Praise your child's interest in the story

We hope that you will enjoy doing these activities with your child. Besides being fun, they are necessary for learning to read and write. Your interest and praise for your child's efforts and progress is the encouragement that he/she needs.

**We wish you many wonderful hours of reading and writing together!**