

Hello and welcome! If you are a parent of a child that is receiving or may be receiving Title 1 services in reading from me, I would like to “Thank You” in advance for clicking this button and finding out more about parental involvement for your child.

The following suggestions and comments are my own. I will be sharing my professional opinions on subject matter that is directly related to your child’s reading. The main reason I’m writing this piece on “Parental Involvement” is to give you information and tools that will help you monitor and accelerate your child’s success.

Before I discuss what you can do to help support your child, I think it’s important to share two items that you should know about your child’s reading.

1. Understand your child’s NWEA (Northwest Education Assessment) score. All K-3 students take this test every fall and spring. (exception – 3rd grade takes the MCA test in the spring)
2. Understand your child’s Star Reading score. These tests are taken at the beginning of the school year and at the end of each quarter. Obviously kindergarten students don’t take these and 1st grade students don’t take one until around the end of the first quarter. These tests take approximately 20 minutes on the computer and are surprisingly accurate if the child has given an honest effort.

If you know these two pieces of information, the following suggestions are ways in which every parent of a Title 1 student can help support their child’s reading. If you don’t know them, information on how to get them is also given below.

1. Your child’s classroom teacher and I have your child’s most current NWEA reading score from this fall. You don’t have to wait for conferences to obtain this information. Call or stop in to visit with me. Now I’m not suggesting that you have to know the actual score of their test but rather what their score means. For example: Did your child score close to grade level? Is your child about a half a year behind grade level? Is your child a year or more behind grade level? My suggestion to parents of Title 1 students is this - the farther behind your child is in reading, the more involved you should be in their reading process. As a parent, you should have a clear and accurate understanding of where your child is at right now compared to their grade level. Once you have this information, you should follow your child’s NWEA score every fall and spring to see if their reading gap compared to their grade level is closing. If it is – great! If it’s not – we need to sit down and visit because it should be closing.
2. Your child should know his/her reading range from his/her last Star Reading test. If he/she doesn’t know or can’t remember, just give me a call as I have this information. The Star Reading score will be two numbers that make up your child’s current reading range. (Example, 1.2 – 2.2) In this example anything below 1.2 would be considered too easy for them while anything above 2.2 may be too frustrating at this point. I always encourage my students to stay towards the top of their reading ranges if they can. I simply believe their reading improves faster this way. Reading SOME easier books for enjoyment is still okay. If YOU read books to your child that are

above your child's reading range, this is okay as well. However, you should be seeing your child bring home library books on a weekly basis with books to read to you that are in their reading range. Our library has thousands of Accelerated Reader books that have the reading level labeled on them. If you know and follow your child's reading range, you will be able to help support them more effectively from home.

3. An obvious way to support your child is to read with them on a regular basis. This is the one area that all experts in the field of reading agree on. I'm not going to lecture you (too much) on the benefits for your child. My intention is not to make you feel guilty, make you feel defensive, or tell you how to parent. With that said, I'd like you to consider being the one responsible for making the effort to sit down with your child on a regular basis and read. Have them read to you, you can read to them, or take turns reading. The point is that you are there with them. Our lives can get very busy at times. It's very easy to just have the child go read alone, which is alright sometimes, but for the majority of the time I believe you should be there supporting. Remember, we are talking about very young developing readers. It's hard to convince a 5 to 8 year old how critical it is to read each night. That is why I am asking the parents of my Title 1 students to take an active role and make it a priority of yours to read with your child. How long or how often you should read with your child is a tough question. If you ask ten teachers you'll probably get ten different answers. As your child's Title 1 teacher I will say that I'm hoping you will try to commit at least 15 minutes each school night to reading with your child. If you can do this on a consistent basis, there is no doubt in my mind that you will be having a big impact on your child's reading success. If you are already spending this much time or more consistently reading with your child, "Thank You." It is the best investment you can give your child in their reading process.
4. Even though reading with your child is the most effective way to help them, some parents may want to help their child in specific areas such as building a larger word bank, improving comprehension skills, etc. If you are such a parent, please check out the "Parent Resources" button as I have listed activities that you can do at home to work on these skills.

Once again, I would like to thank you for taking the time to see how you can be more involved as a parent in your child's reading. I also want to offer you an open invitation to contact me anytime if you want to discuss anything to do with your child's reading.

