



THE PARENT LINK

10 Ways to Connect @ the Library

reference materials to assist children and teenagers.



1. **Answers...**How fast can a dog run? What is the mood made of? What happened to the dinosaurs? No question need go without an answer. Keep a list of questions and take it to the library to help students and teenagers find the answers.
2. **Books...**More books than any family can afford. Books help stretch a child's mind and imagination. Old favorites like Amelia Bedelia and new favorites like Junie B. Jones tempt children of all ages to pick up a book and read. Ask your librarian for titles the whole family will enjoy.
3. **Computers...**Kids today use computers for everything from gaming to research to communicating with friends and family. More and more libraries provide use of computers and classes to help kids and youth master computer skills.
4. **Fun...**Check out your library's free programs. Libraries offer a wide range of activities for children of all ages. From puppet shows and art classes to book clubs and sleepovers, there is something for every member of the family.



5. **Homework Help...**A growing number of libraries across the country offer homework centers specially staffed and equipped with computers and other

6. Librarians...

Librarians are experts at answering questions and helping kids connect with books to appeal to their special interests. Be sure to introduce your children to the librarian and encourage them to ask for assistance.

7. **Magazines...**Most libraries offer a selection of popular children's and youth magazines with stories, games and other fun activities and loads of information.

8. **Preschool learning...**Getting kids ready to learn starts at birth. Almost every library offers preschool story hours and other programs to introduce children to the fun of reading and stimulate mental development.



9. **Audio Books...**Borrow books, stories and songs to play in the car, while brushing teeth, before nap or bedtime, or whenever there's opportunity.



10. **Videos and DVDs...**Check them out! Virtually every library offers videos and DVDs on loan at no cost or with nominal fees. Choose from Sesame Street, Shirley Temple, The Black Stallion, and other classic children's films. There are also current features and educational videos available in many locations.

October Dates to Remember:

5...National Child's Health Day
12...Columbus Day
16...National Boss Day

24...United Nation's Day
24...Make a Difference Day
31...Halloween



Back to School, for Parents!

When the back-to-school bell starts ringing, parents often hear and read school-related terms that are

unfamiliar to them. Below are three terms and descriptions related to reading instruction that may help give you a better understanding of what's happening in your child's classroom and what it all means for your young learner.

Screening: Benjamin Franklin famously said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." In the classroom, this quote translates to the use of reading *screening* for all students. Screenings usually take place within the first few weeks of school. Rather than waiting for students to fail at school, screenings give teachers a chance to identify students who are at risk of having difficulty. Scores on screenings help teachers identify students who may need extra help through small group or one-on-one instruction. For example, most kindergarten screenings include measures of alphabet and letter-sound knowledge.

Differentiated reading instruction: A teacher who provides *differentiated reading instruction* is one who meets the instructional needs of all the students in the class by planning different instruction based on the results of an assessment she's given. For example, while all the students in the class may be working to develop their fluency skills, students may be working with different books, and some may still be working on their sight words. Some students may be working in pairs, others working one-on-one with the teacher.

Leveled text: Many teachers use *leveled texts* in their classrooms. Most of the books used in elementary classrooms are leveled, or placed in a certain category, based on certain criteria such as number of words and sentence length. There are several common leveling systems; some use letters to indicate levels and others use numbers. The levels correspond to different grade level materials. For example, if a school is using a Guided Reading leveling system, levels E-I typically refer to books written at a first-grade level. If your school uses leveled texts, ask your teacher what leveling system they use and to recommend books that would be appropriate for your child.

As a parent, it can be tough to keep up with the language of schools. These three terms are just a few of the many reading-related terms you will hear this year. We encourage parents to work closely with teachers and ask lots of questions. You'll be glad you did!

The above article is adapted from:
[http://www.idonline.org/content/edextras/
back-to-school_en.doc](http://www.idonline.org/content/edextras/back-to-school_en.doc)



Quick Math Tip

Cover up the digital clocks in your house and only let your child tell time by the analog clock (clocks that have moving hands).

Ask questions like

- *What time will it be in 5 minutes?*
- *How many minutes until it is seven thirty?*