

Region 5 Parent and Family Engagement Newsletter

350 Pine St. #500 Beaumont, TX 77701

www.esc5.net / Jennifer Smith, jessmith@esc5.net



Raise a Lifetime Reader

Make sure you (the adult role model) are seen reading daily. It works even better if you read at the same time as the child.

For young children, looking at pictures in books and turning pages qualifies as "reading." We become picture-literate before we become print-literate.

Allow children to choose the books they wish to read to themselves.

Don't take that vacation car trip without recorded book on board. They can be checked out at the local library and they count too!

Set some time parameters, short at first and longer as the children get older and read more.

Newspapers and magazines, even comic books, should count toward reading time.

Title III, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), aims to ensure that English learners (ELs) and immigrant students attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic achievement in English. Title III will also assist all English learners meet the same challenging State academic standards that all children are expected to meet.

Summer Reading

According to Jim Trelease's publication of *Summer Reading*, the adage "If you don't use it, you lose it," proves true for children who spend a summer without books and reading. Without reading role models and someone to read to them, without printed material, and new experiences, the reading skills grow rusty. How can we prevent the traditional summer reading loss?

Most libraries have summer reading programs, make sure your child is enrolled and participates. Take your child on field trips – even if you just visit local places like a fire station, the museum, or the zoo, and talk and listen. As for availability of books, the public library has all the books you could want – for free.

In the article, *Why Reading to Your Kids in Your Home Language Will Help Them Become Better Readers*, by Lydia Breiseth, she answers the following question. As a parent, should we be reading to our children in their native language or English? You may be afraid that reading to them in their native language will confuse

them as they try to learn English, and that it will make it harder for them to read in English. You may also be concerned that you shouldn't read to them in English if you don't feel comfortable with your own English skills. While it is important to encourage and support your child's efforts to learn English, research shows that children who are read to in their native language (such as Spanish) will have an easier time learning to read in their second language (such as English). The benefits are even greater for children who learn to read first in their native language. This means that by developing your child's literacy skills in their first language, you will be making it easier for them to learn to speak, read, and write English in the future.

Creating a rich language environment at home in your family's native language will stimulate your child's cognitive, linguistic, and social development, and will enforce his/her early literacy skills. Libraries, bookstores, and community centers in your neighborhood may offer books in different languages that you can read with your children. Even if you can't purchase books to take home, you can make special "reading trips" to these places to enjoy books with your children. If you can't find any children's books in your native language in your community, talk with other parents about ways to create a collection of books or native language resources that many families can enjoy.

So when you see native language books at your library or bookstore, don't hesitate to pick them up and take them home — they may be just what you need to get your child on the road to reading and to becoming a successful English language learner!

Resource: colorincolorado.org



Creating a Print-Rich Environment in Your Native Language:

- Reading books in your native language with your child on a daily basis
- Talking about the stories you have read together
- Playing rhyming games and singing songs in your home language together
- Encouraging your child to write in their first language
- Keeping print material in your home such as books, greeting cards, magazines, and newspapers
- Exposing your child to games, puzzles, and music in your native language
- Encouraging your child to use their native language to tell stories
- Expanding your child's vocabulary by teaching him/her new words, pointing out and naming objects, and helping him/her improve pronunciation
- Visiting the public library regularly to check out books and other resources