

See Us Learn

Dear Families,

At the heart of our mission is the belief that family engagement and partnership is a vital, two-way exchange between families and schools. It is only together that we will ensure the success of every student. I am thrilled to share an important shift in our approach to reading instruction.

This year we set out on an ambitious plan: ensure each and every one of our students is a great reader. To do so, we launched NYC Reads, which uses 50 years of evidence-based practices called the science of reading to teach our children to read. Why the science of reading? This approach gives us a clear picture of how children learn to read words, build their vocabulary, and understand what's happening in stories.

As part of NYC Reads, we want you to know that your child's school is using a reading curriculum based in the science of reading. Reading instruction will focus on building five foundational reading skills:

- 1 Phonological Awareness (sounding out words)
- 2 Phonics (sounds letters make)
- 3 Vocabulary (knowing words)
- 4 Fluency (reading smoothly)
- 5 Reading Comprehension (understanding stories)

NYC Reads is committed to equipping our families and educators with tools and resources to effectively teach reading and ensure that each child has a bright start for a bold future. Find out more about NYC Reads by visiting our website, schools.nyc.gov/NYCReads.

A Promise and an Invitation

As we embark on this exciting transition, I want you to know that our attentiveness remains steadfast: ensuring that every child not only learns to read but also develops a profound love for reading. As you attend Family Conferences throughout this year, I invite you to ask your child's teacher questions like:

- What are the specific reading skills that my child is working on?
- Are there any specific strengths or weaknesses in my child's reading skills?
- How can I support my child's reading development at home?

I invite you to join us on this journey. Let's work together—families, educators, and community—to support our children. There will be opportunities to learn more about the Science of Reading, ways you can support at home, and spaces for dialogue and feedback.

In partnership,

Kenita Lloyd

Deputy Chancellor

Family and Community Engagement and External Affairs

NYC Public Schools



Office of Family and
Community Engagement



Eric Adams
Mayor

David C. Banks
Chancellor

Speaking/ Listening Activities

STORYTELLING NIGHTS

Organize storytelling nights where each family member takes turns sharing their favorite stories or even creating their own.

SONG LYRICS

Listen to music and discuss the lyrics. You can even print them out and read along as the song plays.

ARTICULATION EXERCISES

Practice tongue twisters, articulation exercises, and vocal warm-ups as a family to improve clarity and pronunciation while speaking.

DEBATE NIGHTS

Organize friendly debates on interesting subjects, allowing family members to express their viewpoints and actively listen to counterarguments.

THEATER AND IMPROV

Attend theater performances or participate in family-friendly improv classes, encouraging creativity in both speaking and listening.

TED TALK DISCUSSIONS

Watch TED Talks as a family and engage in discussions afterward, sharing insights and reflections on the ideas presented.

LANGUAGE GAMES

Play language-related games like word associations, storytelling with prompt cards, or vocabulary-building games to make language learning enjoyable (e.g. Taboo, Telephone, Heads Up).

INTERVIEW PRACTICE

Pair up and take turns interviewing each other on specific topics, helping family members practice both asking questions and providing thoughtful answers.

POETRY RECITALS

Hold poetry recital sessions where each family member selects a poem to recite, fostering expressive speaking and attentive listening.

DISCUSSION CIRCLES

Choose a current event or thought-provoking topic and engage in family discussion circles, allowing each member to express their opinions and actively listen to others.

PUBLIC SPEAKING CHALLENGES

Create fun public speaking challenges, such as giving short speeches on favorite topics or practicing presentations, to boost speaking confidence.