



## FREE INTERNET RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN'S LITERACY

Most of these are Internet sites. Materials can be downloaded, then copied. The emphasis is on how **families can be involved**. The federal Department of Education site is enormous. Try direct links first, then wander to other pages.

If you don't have Internet access or are not sure how to get to the sites you want,  
**ASK A LIBRARIAN, THE BEST SEARCH ENGINE@your library**

- America Reads, <[www.ed.gov/inits/americanreads/](http://www.ed.gov/inits/americanreads/)> Be sure to take time to explore not only the initial site but connected pages. For example, the parent section includes another program called Ready\*Set\*Read!< [www.ed.gov/Family/RSRforFamily/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/Family/RSRforFamily/index.html)>
- "Checkpoints for Progress In Reading and Writing for Families and Communities" Gives developmental milestones on what kids should be doing at certain ages and what families can do to help; birth to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. <[www.ed.gov/pubs/CheckFamilies/](http://www.ed.gov/pubs/CheckFamilies/)>
- "A Compact for Reading," US Department of Education. This is a formal program, but parts can be used, in particular the "School-Home Links Reading Kits" with actual worksheets to download, copy and send home for parents to help kids K – 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Some materials in Spanish.**  
< [www.ed.gov/pubs/CompactforReading/content.html](http://www.ed.gov/pubs/CompactforReading/content.html)>
- "Continuing on Track. . .as Your Child Grows & Learns" Colorado Department of Education, Free brochure targeted to parents of children 5 through 8 years. Developmental milestones, things for parents to do. **Spanish** <[www.cde.state.co.us/artemis/ed2/ED22C431997INTERNET.pdf](http://www.cde.state.co.us/artemis/ed2/ED22C431997INTERNET.pdf)>  
**English** <[www.earlychildhoodconnections.org/files/Continuing%20on%20Track%20English.pdf](http://www.earlychildhoodconnections.org/files/Continuing%20on%20Track%20English.pdf)>
- "Creating a Home Literacy Environment," Libraries Linking Idaho's Read to Me Program.  
< [www.lili.org/read/readtome/homeliteracy.htm](http://www.lili.org/read/readtome/homeliteracy.htm) > General ideas for families.
- "Helping Your Child With. . . (various topics)" and related topics to help kids, KidsSource Online. Many pamphlets and calendars of activities, somewhat out-dated, but still pertinent. For elementary and junior high ages. <[www.kidsource.com/kidsource/pages/ed.k12.html](http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/pages/ed.k12.html)>
- "Helping Your Child Succeed in School": A number of publications associated with the Federal No Child Left Behind act, this site links to useful materials about reading. Also in **Spanish**.  
<[www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html](http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html)>
- "Kansas Kids Ready for Learning," Kansas Department of Education.  
<<http://www.readyforlearning.net>> Chock full of links of all types—reading, writing, math, parents, schools—from all over the country. Activities, studies, organizations. For kids birth to 8.
- "Learning Partners," US Department of Education. VERY GOOD. Feds again, for parents of school-aged kids, correlated to grades, pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup>. Covers many subject areas in addition to reading and school success (art, science, etc.) <[www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/LearnPtnrs/](http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/LearnPtnrs/)>

- PBS, ANY children's programming on—Especially good and thorough is "Between the Lions," developed as a literacy program. [www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org) Free activities, coloring sheets, advice for adults. Good to use in conjunction with watching the programs.
- PTA's "Spanish Resources." Lists of links in Spanish to promote parent involvement in schooling. [www.pta.org/spanish/index.asp](http://www.pta.org/spanish/index.asp)
- "Reading Planet," Reading Is Fundamental. Searchable list of activities for kids birth to 15 years for families, care givers, teachers. [www.rif.org/readingplanet/activitylab/default.mspx](http://www.rif.org/readingplanet/activitylab/default.mspx)
- Reading Rockets. The single best, easiest to understand site. Although billed for "young readers," site contains tons of information for parents and educators about kids through teens. Enter the term you want information about. [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)
- "Read\*Write\*Now," US Dept of Education. Probably the best one for activities, in **English and Spanish**, information for families, activities they can do, kids birth to sixth grade; formal tutoring program ideas, book reviews by readers, book distribution project. [www.ed.gov/inits/americanreads/readnow.html](http://www.ed.gov/inits/americanreads/readnow.html)
- "Read, Write, Think," lessons and activities for teachers, parents and students, according to grade level. For those seriously interested in reading skills. [www.readwritethink.org/](http://www.readwritethink.org/)
- **Spanish-language books** for kids, Barahona Center for Study of Books in Spanish for Children and Adolescents. [www.csusm.edu/csb/](http://www.csusm.edu/csb/) At this site you can COMPILE A BOOKLIST OF TITLES. Then ask your librarian to get some of them.
- "Start Early," US Department of Education. [www.ed.gov/pubs/startearly/ch\\_1.html](http://www.ed.gov/pubs/startearly/ch_1.html) Comprehensive, covers infants through school. If you go to the very last part, there is a document for parents of school-aged kids, called "Action Steps for Parents."
- "The Story Place," Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County. [www.storyplace.org/](http://www.storyplace.org/) Online, Internet, **English and Spanish stories** for all ages of kids, games.
- "Tips for Parents" Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. **English and Spanish.** [www.nwrac.org/pub/tipsforparents.pdf](http://www.nwrac.org/pub/tipsforparents.pdf) and [www.nwrac.org/pub/tipsforpadres.pdf](http://www.nwrac.org/pub/tipsforpadres.pdf) A 26 page booklet, but can be cut and pasted or reproduced in parts. Covers theory, practice, ages and stages, booklists, B to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**TO READ WELL, children must have access to lots of books, especially books that interest them.**

**The more time kids spend reading, the better readers they become.**

**REMEMBER, libraries have FREE books for kids and parents,  
story hours, crafts, and activities year-round.**

**Check our website for more resources—telephone stories, Spanish websites  
for children, "Reading Tips for Parents," models for literacy programs, etc.**

**[www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Childrens\\_Literacy\\_Resources.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/Childrens_Literacy_Resources.htm)**

Provided as a public service by the Colorado State Library Colorado Department of Education,  
For information, contact 303.866.6900.