



October 2016 Parent Newsletter

www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student

Read for Success

The ability to read is essential to a child's success at school and in life. As parents, you play an important role in helping your child build strong reading skills and develop a life-long passion for reading.

To help build a culture of reading at home, talk to your child's teacher about your child's reading level. The teacher can recommend books and other reading materials that are appropriate for your child. Check with the teacher regularly to learn how your child is progressing, and be sure to celebrate each success.

In addition, look for opportunities for you and your child to read together. Visit your local library and pick out a book together. Have discussions about how the characters compare to someone you know or how the book reminds you of somewhere you have been.

Consider asking yourself or your child's teacher the following questions.

- How does reading each day help my child?
- How much time should my child read each day?
- How can I help my child with reading?
- What can I do to promote reading at home?
- How can I determine if my child is reading on grade level?
- What reading services are available for my child at school and after school?

Additional resources from the U.S. Department of Education are available at <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml>.

Red Ribbon Week

This year Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31. The campaign's goal is to increase drug awareness and the importance of living a drug-free life. It is important to have ongoing conversations with your child about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol. According to the Red Ribbon Campaign (<http://redribbon.org>), "Children of parents who talk to their teens regularly about drugs are 42 percent less likely to use drugs than those who don't, yet only a quarter of teens report having these conversations."

Consider the following questions as you promote drug-free living at home.

- What information can I share with my child about the dangers of using drugs?
- How can I encourage my child to avoid dangerous drugs?
- How can I show my child that I am committed to a drug-free life?
- How can my child participate in Red Ribbon Week?
- How can I become involved in Red Ribbon Week?

The National Family Partnership offers resources for parents at <http://www.redribbon.org/activities/Parents/index.html>. Additional resources are available at <http://www.drugfree.org/resources/>.