**BENEFITS OF READING AT HOME**

**✓ Build a Love of Reading**
Reading helps children:
- improve their knowledge,
- expand their cultural awareness,
- have more fun,
- make their imagination fly,
- find new ways to express their ideas, and
- become experts on a variety of kid friendly subjects.

Reading also provides a quiet escape from their often hectic and over scheduled lives.

**✓ Improve Vocabulary**
Regular, consistent reading can increase your child's vocabulary. A strong vocabulary often leads to a higher level of academic success. Your children will amaze you with their growing conversational skills!

**✓ Improve Learning in Every Subject Area**
Regardless of your children’s age, becoming a successful reader will benefit them in almost any subject area or career path. For example, in high school science classes, your child will read lab directions, understand science texts and test questions. No matter the context, it will be important that your child can apply his or her knowledge of reading skills in order to analyze the reading.

**✓ Develop Critical Thinking Skills**
Reading and analyzing texts helps children develop critical thinking skills. They become better observers, interpreters and evaluators. As your children read a text, they will begin to make inferences about what is being read and summarize the key ideas and details of a text.

**Did you know?**
Reading with your children is the most important activity you can do to support their education.

Children understand stories read aloud at a higher comprehension level than what they can read on their own.
- Encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters. Older children enjoy showing off their skills to an admiring audience.
- All BUSD elementary school students have accounts with Tales2Go, an audiobook streaming subscription service. It’s like Netflix for audiobooks! To use Tales2Go at home, talk to your classroom teacher or librarian for more info, or go to library.berkeleyschools.net

**VISIT THE YEAR OF THE READER WEBSITE AT:**
http://www.berkeleyschools.net/yearofthereader/

**THE YEAR OF THE READER**
BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2016–2017

Reading Together Makes Learning Better!
**Tips for Parents:**

**How to Invite Children to Fall in Love with Books**

To create environments that invite children to confidently embrace and fall in love with stories and books, follow these tips!

- **Model reading.** Read to or with your children every day. Let them see you read for pleasure.
- **Immerse your child in books.** Transform your entire home into a reading zone by placing books in every room.
- **Affirm your child’s culture, language, and race.** Choose books with characters, places, and experiences that reflect your child’s background.
- **Awaken your children to new ideas, places, people, or experiences in books when you ask them questions about what they read.** Always answer the ones they have.
- **Empower your children as readers.** Invite them to choose books to read, based on what interests them or on book covers and titles or summaries.
- **Arm your children with books.** Children can always leave home with books. They can take books as they leave for school, medical appointments, or for a long ride.
- **Cultivate your children’s use of language and words.** Talk about what is happening in your children’s lives and the world.
- **Check your child’s book bags** for their “just right” books. Encourage them to read the books to you and to complete the nightly reading log.
- **Encourage older children to read to younger brothers and sisters.** Older children enjoy showing off their skills to an admiring audience.

**Books to Home Reading Program**

- Literacy – the ability to read, write and communicate clearly – will define a child’s future success in school and in life.
- Early experiences with books build a strong foundation for reading. Reading at home during the elementary and middle school years in one of the most important things that parents and guardians can do to promote the love and joy of reading and to help their children develop into a strong reader.
- The Books to Home program is an important part of BUSD’s Literacy Program at all eleven of our elementary schools.
- Every evening, children bring home their “just right” books and nightly reading log. The book selection in your children’s book bag is tailored to their current reading levels and should include a variety of fiction and non-fiction selections.
- Reading books at the appropriate level is key to increasing reading fluency, comprehension and reading pleasure.

Help us to show your children that reading is fun!

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Tips were created by Dr. Lauren Wells, Chief Education Officer in the City of Newark, New Jersey and shared at: [http://grassrootscommunityfoundation.org/](http://grassrootscommunityfoundation.org/)

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**The 10 Best Graphic Novels of the Year**

- *The Nameless City* by Faith Erin Hicks. illus. by author. Gr 4-8.
- *Science Comics: Dinosaurs* by MK Reed. illus. by Joe Flood. Gr 4-8.
