



October 1, 2002

Dear Teacher:

We all know that parents are the first teachers, and that parents who are informed and involved send children to school better prepared to learn. Parents can play a tremendous part in helping you to create successful, independent readers.

I am pleased to share with you *Reading Tips for Parents*. This supplement is brought to you through a partnership with Scholastic and Just Read, Florida! This insert is designed to give parents a working knowledge of the five building blocks of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary.

Using Clifford, the Big Red Dog, the insert explains each building block and offers a variety of tips on how parents can support the wonderful work that you do each day with your students. By sending *Reading Tips for Parents* home, you are helping parents enhance the reading skills of their children.

Thank you for the part that you play in the education of Florida's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeb Bush". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeb Bush

Scholastic's 82-year mission is to help every child learn to read and become a lifelong learner.

A Scholastic Partnership With Just Read, Florida!

SCHOLASTIC'S Reading Tips For Parents

Hi. I'm Emily Elizabeth. One of my favorite things to do is to read to my dog, Clifford.



Use the five building blocks of reading when you read along with your child. Look for fun reading tips inside!

1

Phonemic Awareness

knowing that words are made up of sounds

2

Phonics

the link between sounds and letters

3

Vocabulary

what words mean and how to say them

4

Fluency

the ability to read words accurately and at an appropriate pace

5

Reading Comprehension

the ability to understand what you read

Reading Together

Try these reading tips at home with your kids!

1

Phonemic awareness

To help your child listen to and practice with the sounds that make up words...

- Read books with rhymes.
- Teach your child rhymes, short poems, and songs.
- Help your child separate the sounds in words, listen for beginning and ending sounds, and put separate sounds together.
- Play simple word games.

Clifford, did you know that **dog** rhymes with **frog**?



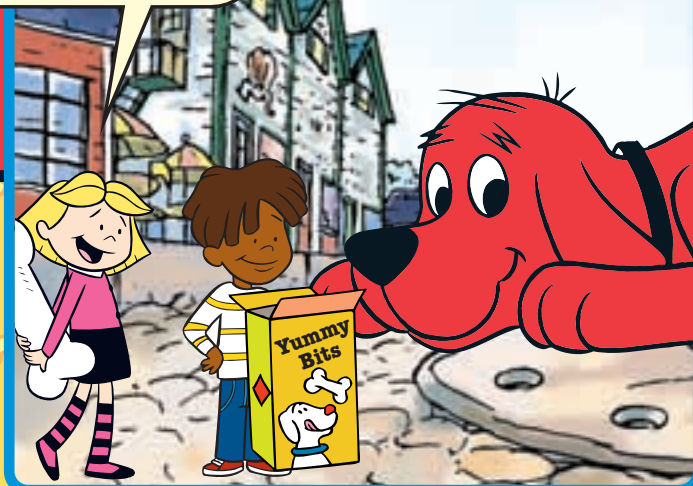
2

Phonics

To help your child connect sounds to letters to figure out the "code" of reading...

- Practice the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them and by reading alphabet books.
- Point out the letter-sound relationship your child is learning on labels, boxes, newspapers, magazines, and signs.

Hey Charlie, look at Clifford's box of dog treats. **Yummy** begins with a **y**. What letter does **Bits** begin with?



3

Vocabulary

To help your child learn and use new words...

- Share conversations with your child over mealtimes and other times you are together. Children learn what words mean more easily when they hear them spoken often.
- Introduce new and interesting words at every opportunity.

You look especially **gigantic** today, Clifford. Gigantic means really, really big. I love you, my gigantic red dog!



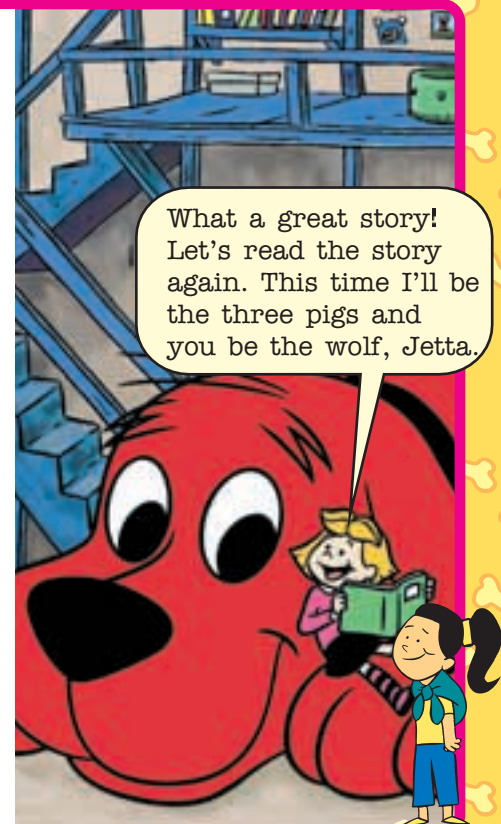
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Fluency

To help your child read words accurately and at an appropriate pace...

- Listen to your child read words and books from school. Be patient and listen as your child practices. Let your child know you are proud of his or her reading.
- Have your child re-read familiar books. Children need practice in reading comfortably and with expression using books they know.
- As your child reads aloud, point out words he or she missed and help him or her read words correctly. If you stop to focus on a word, have your child re-read the whole sentence to be sure he or she understood the meaning.

What a great story! Let's read the story again. This time I'll be the three pigs and you be the wolf, Jetta.



5

Reading Comprehension

To help your child understand what is read...







- Talk with your child about what he or she is reading.
- Talk about new words.
- Talk about what happened in a story.
- Ask about the characters, places, and events that took place.
- Ask your child what he or she thinks will happen next.
- Ask what new information your child has learned from the book.
- Have your child retell the story in his or her own words.



★ From the Governor ★

Make reading a part of every day.

Mrs. Bush and I invite you to make reading a part of every day. Here are some simple ways that you can help your child become a successful, independent reader.

-  Share conversation with your child over meals and other times you are together. Children learn words more easily when they hear them spoken often. Introduce new words at every opportunity.
-  Read together for 15 minutes every day. Spend time talking about stories, pictures, and words.
-  Be your child's best advocate. Keep informed about your child's progress in reading and ask the teacher about ways you can help.
-  Be a reader and writer. Children learn habits from the people around them.
-  Have your child read to younger brothers, sisters, grandparents, and neighbors. Encourage your child to read as much as possible.
-  Visit the library often. Story times, computers, homework help, and other exciting activities await the entire family.



Governor Jeb Bush

www.myflorida.com/jrf

Visit **Scholastic.com** for books to develop phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and reading comprehension skills, or call **1-800-SCHOLASTIC**.

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