

Especially for Parents

A.A.S.D. Elementary Schools

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND - PARENT NEWSLETTER

(Edition #26)

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WORKING WITH TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

Helping Your Child Succeed in School

No Child Left Behind requires schools to develop ways to get parents more involved in their child's education and in improving the school.

What's the best way for me to stay involved in my child's school activities?

Attend school events. Go to sports events and concerts, attend back-to-school night, parent-teacher meetings and awards events.

Volunteer in your school. If your schedule permits, look for ways to help your child's school.

Chaperones are needed for school trips or dances (and if your child thinks it's just too embarrassing to have you on the dance floor, sell soft drinks down the hall from the dance).



The school may have councils or advisory committees that need parent representatives.

If work or other commitments make it impossible for you to volunteer in the school, look for ways to help at home. For example, you can make phone calls to other parents to tell them about school-related activities. Ask yourself the question, "What can I do at home, easily and in a few minutes a day, to reinforce and extend what the school is doing?"

Source: U.S. Department of Education, www.ed.gov

TIPS FOR PARENTS

(Source: www.ed.gov, *Reading Tips for Parents*)

The Five Essential Components of Reading *(continued)*

Edition #25 of this newsletter described two of the five essential components of reading (**phonemic awareness & phonics**) that children must be taught in order to learn to read. The other three areas that children need to practice are:

- Developing the ability to read a text accurately and quickly, or **reading fluency**. Children must learn to read words rapidly and accurately in order to understand what is read. Readers who are weak in fluency read slowly, word by word, focusing on decoding words instead of comprehending meaning.
- Learning the meaning and pronunciation of words, or **vocabulary development**. Children need to actively build and expand their knowledge of written and spoken words, what they mean and how they are used.
- Acquiring strategies to understand, remember and communicate what is read, or **reading comprehension strategies**. Children need to be taught comprehension strategies, or steps good readers use to make sure they understand text. Students who are in control of their own reading comprehension become purposeful, active readers.

For additional information about NCLB, try the following websites: nclb.gov or www.pde.state.pa.us