

### Question

What can parents do to help develop the reading literacy skills of children in Grades 4-8?

### Application

Report to parents who want to participate in literacy tutoring.

### Literature Search

ERIC, PsychInfo, Linguistics & Language Behavior Abstracts, Social Services Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, MLA International Bibliography; Web of Science, PAIS International (January 1980 - June 2004)  
393 **articles identified** and imported to RefWorks™  
58 **met inclusion criteria** by abstract and/or full text review; selection of 11 articles that studied parents as tutors

**Spotlights on four most relevant articles = 4**

### SUMMARY OF SPOTLIGHTS

Parents can positively influence children's reading achievement by reading with them at home for 10-15 minutes daily using the following procedure

- parent reads to child as a "warm up"**
- parent and child read in unison**
- child reads to parent**
- parent and child discuss material read**

Procedures should ensure that:

- child masters skill before advancing to next task**
- child is encouraged, praised, and rewarded**
- parent refrains from quick correction
- parents give hints about what a problem word means, not direct help with pronunciation

Parents working together with the school allows for noticeable results in the classroom as well as at home when there is an overlap in the materials used

**#4 Wilks, R.T., & Clarke, V.A. (1988). Training versus nontraining of mothers as home reading tutors. *Perceptual & Motor Skills*, 67(1), 135-142.**

**Abstract** The effectiveness of training mothers as home reading tutors was assessed using a sample of 42 mother-child pairs. The children were 8 and 9 yrs old. Analyses showed that the amount of time parents spent listening to a child read at home was positively related to both reading accuracy and comprehension scores. A short group-program training mothers as home reading tutors achieved the anticipated changes in mothers' behaviours: delayed intervention, increased use of meaning and contextual cues, and greater use of praise. Children's reading accuracy was marginally improved and reading comprehension was significantly increased as a result of training the mothers as home reading tutors.

### Relevance Summary

Parents listened to their children read for 19 minutes each day, 3 times per week. While reading with children, parents are encouraged to pay less attention to errors, to respond to errors less quickly, to praise children frequently during reading, and to give children hints about the meaning of the difficult word by using it in a sentence.

Mothers in this study received a 1-hour training session each week for 4 weeks. Training included definitions of reading skills, ways to introduce a child to a book, how to encourage reading habits, ways to select the best time and place for reading, and how to select books of appropriate difficulty.

### Key Quotes

*"Through daily contact with their children, parents can provide the constant assistance and encouragement necessary to achieve independent reading."* (p. 135).



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