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| Dear Family Member:  Here is a checklist to use for preparing to read with your child and another for quality conversations with your children or teens. |

## Strengthening Reading in the Home

## Use this list to analyze where you can help your child with reading in English, Spanish or any language.

* Enjoys reading (or being read to).
* Looks for fun things to read (like magazines and comics).
* Can pronounce unknown words and recognize familiar words at a glance.
* Understands and uses written information (such as following written instructions).
* Can remember details and retell important information after reading.
* Can make predictions based on what is happening so far in a tale or story.
* Can pause while reading and return to the sentence after being interrupted.
* Reads expressively, as actors do on television shows.
* Can find out the meaning of new words, either by the context in which they appear or by asking questions.
* Makes connections between material read and personal experiences.



**The Power of Communication**

Each conversation with children and adolescents teaches them the richness of communication as they bask in your attention. When children/teens use words to tell you what they see, what they need, or to describe their emotions, they realize the power of words and that words can help them appreciate their culture- and even more, the language at home! Here is a guide for you to choose a topic or activity and practice quality communication:

* Ask questions-lots of questions, such as ones that help their imagination or give them solutions to simple problems. Expand the conversation by asking:
  + What happened before?
  + What happened after?
  + What do you think about it?
  + What did you like the most?
  + How do you imagine this place is?
* Tell stories about your family and their traditions, celebrations, food tastes, etc.
* Share songs you used to sing, or someone sang to you, as a child.
* Describe the places where your family has visited and lived, the history of those places, their legends, their importance, etc.
* Cook together and name all the ingredients and kitchen objects. Describe all the steps when preparing them. Find a cooking recipe that your grandmother used to cook and describe the preparation procedure by telling Grandma's story. Describe the tastes, smells and memories that these recipes bring to you.

Taking time to have quality conversations with your children/teens is an opportunity to build communication skills and express your love. ♡