

# READ with me



## ★ Pick a Reading Partner!



*Learning to read is the single most important activity in a child's education.*

Think about it. Virtually everything depends on the ability to read. Illiteracy is the greatest hindrance to an individual's educational, social, economic and emotional development.

If a person can't read, he or she can't fill out the simplest job application, can't order from a menu, can't even follow directions to put together a child's toy.

Teachers can provide a child with the tools needed to learn to read, but reading skills are wasted without practice. Reading partners can make the difference.

Educator and psychologist B.F. Skinner wrote:

*"We shouldn't teach great books; we should teach a love of reading."*

Great books are important, but the love of reading must come first. That love can be acquired and practiced best in a partnership.

Pick A Reading Partner is a reading program in which parents, teachers and community organizations work together to encourage children to become better readers. It cements the bond between the home and the school to foster the education process. Together, this effort will make our children more successful and their education more fruitful.

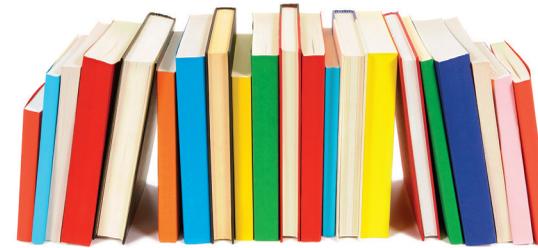
## Where to get help ...

Young people want to read what makes them laugh, cry, shiver and gasp – stories and poems that reflect what they have felt, that trigger their imagination.

There are many people who would be glad to help you find ways to make reading more interesting for a child. Talk to teachers or the librarian at school. Visit the public library. The Children's Book Council has current lists of good books for children.

[www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org)

Pick A Reading Partner is sponsored by NYSUT and the NYS PTA, and is also endorsed by the New York State Reading Association and the New York Library Association.



New York State United Teachers

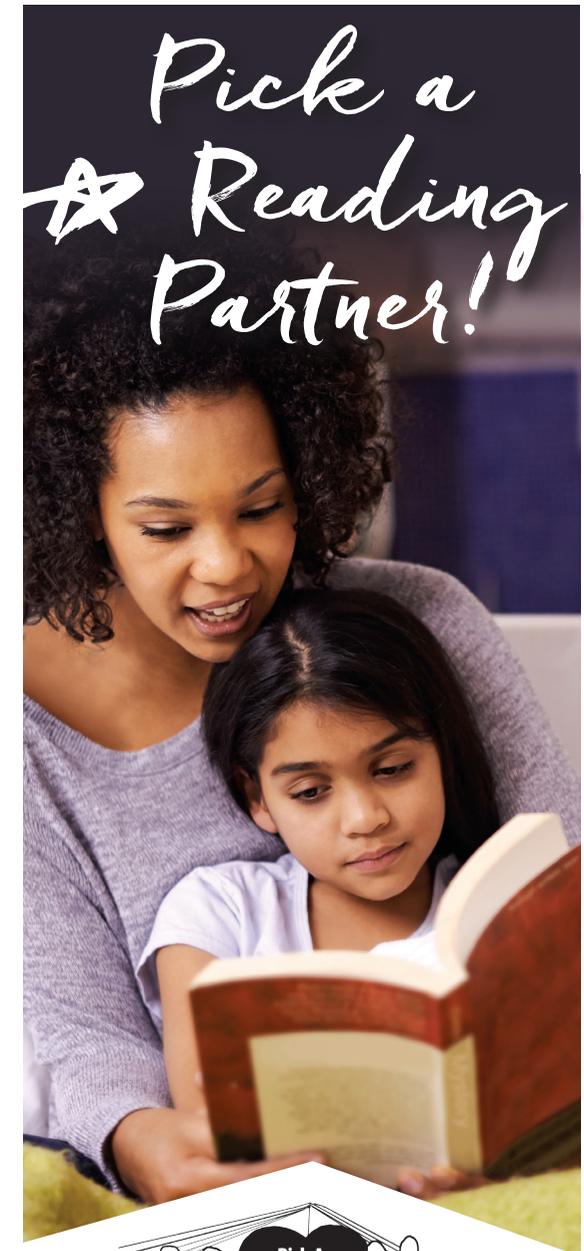
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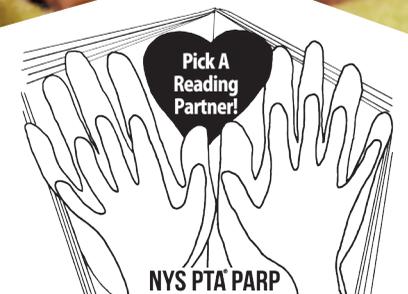
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## Pick a ★ Reading Partner!



## What can partners do?

### Set an example for a child.

Read every day – newspapers, magazines, books. Share something interesting or funny that you have read.

Have books available in your home. Encourage a child to borrow books from the school library and from the public library.

You can improve a child's reading by joining New York's "Pick A Reading Partner." Any person who plays an important role in a child's life can be a reading partner.

The program encourages you to:

- Read with a child for 15 minutes a day. Short, regular sessions encourage the reading habit.
- Use these 15 minutes in a variety of ways:
  - Have a child read aloud to you.
  - Read aloud to a child.
  - Read the same page silently and then discuss it.
- Share the reading time by sitting together, each reading anything that is of interest – jokes, recipes, sports, poetry, biographies, adventure.
- If a child wants to continue reading at the end of 15 minutes, by all means encourage the child to do so.

## Tips for Reading Partners

### Build the right climate ...

- Make reading a pleasant experience.
- Give books for gifts or subscribe to a children's magazine.
- Do projects that depend on reading: cooking, model building, arts and crafts.
- Read together as often as you can. Discuss the story and ask a question or two about what you've read to encourage good listening habits.
- Talk and sing. Listen to their questions and stories. Give them time to put their ideas into words.

### Create excitement ...

- Make a story come alive by using a finger or sock puppet to tell the story.
- Start reading or telling a story and stop before it is finished. Have the child finish the story for you.
- Read with expression.
- Dramatize a story you have read, each taking different parts.
- Share your childhood through storytelling.

### Each child needs to experience success ...

- Build self-respect and morale by praising any reading that the child does. There is a difference between encouragement and pressure.
- Offer positive comments.
- Make sure the child has well-balanced meals and adequate rest. How a child feels affects his or her attitude.
- Be genuinely interested in the child's school work.
- Never use reading as a punishment.

### Develop vocabulary and T.L.C. ...

- Introduce the fun of language to babies through nursery rhymes and lullabies
- Have the child dictate a short story to you and help the child read it back. Then see if he or she can read it alone.
- Develop vocabulary by having the child give the opposite of words such as black, uncle, open, stand, etc.
- Use the TV as a springboard to help in reading development of a child.

## ✓ Check your progress as a Reading Partner

- I read something every day.
- I have a library card and I use it.
- I take the child to the library frequently.
- I read aloud often to the child.
- I listen to the child share the day's experiences.
- I encourage the child to write letters, notes and lists.
- I take trips to expose the child to different experiences.
- We play word games and listening games.
- I buy books and magazine subscriptions for birthdays and holiday gifts.
- I praise the child for efforts and accomplishments.

As few as 15 minutes a day reading to or with the child can make a tremendous difference in development. It will be time well spent, time that cannot be recaptured if we let it pass.

