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AmericaReads

CHALLENGE

How to Get Involved

The Initiative

The Legislation

Questions & Answers

Federal Work-Study Packet



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-_____

MEET THE CHALLENGE: Reading 30 minutes a day can change a child's life!

DEAR LEARNING PARTNER:

In August of 1996, President Clinton challenged every American to join his AMERICA READS CHALLENGE to help more children read well and independently by the end of the third grade. This challenge is an opportunity for families, schools, libraries, and community groups to become part of a national, grass-roots effort to improve the reading and writing skills of America's children. With almost 40 percent of children in the fourth grade not reading and writing at a basic level, there is important work for everyone who wants to help our Nation meet this challenge.

To further the President's Challenge, we encourage you to read with the children in your family and community using this AMERICA READS CHALLENGE: *READ*WRITE*NOW!* summer reading kit. The kit was developed by reading experts using the best research, and successful experiences of teachers, librarians, and families, to increase and maintain reading achievement and reading skills for all children—including those with disabilities—during the summer. Libraries and librarians across the nation are ready to provide books and guidance to children and their learning partners.

Secretary Riley launched *READ*WRITE*NOW!* in 1995 to involve whole communities in helping children to improve their reading and writing skills. Since that time, millions of children have followed *READ*WRITE*NOW!*'s simple formula to make reading and writing fun and easy. We are pleased to provide you with our new 1997 AMERICA READS CHALLENGE: *READ*WRITE*NOW!* kit. **To *READ*WRITE*NOW!*, all you need is a child, a learning partner (that's you!), and a book:**

- For **younger children**, the kit offers ideas on how a **learning partner** can engage all children in educational activities, such as learning the alphabet and word sounds. It also discusses different approaches for making reading to young children fun and creative, including helping them to follow the story and develop a new ending.
- For **school-age children**, the kit encourages all children to pledge to read and write 30 minutes a day, five days a week. Many families read to or with their children during this time. One day a week, children meet for at least 30 minutes with a **learning partner** (a reader who is a family member, librarian, teacher, caring teenager, senior citizen, or other community member). Learning partners tutor children and provide extra help in reading and writing. Learning partners, if not family members, work with families to keep them informed and involved.

Pizza Hut, Inc. has provided certificates, redeemable between August 15 and September 18, 1997, for a free Personal Pan Pizza® to reward children who successfully complete the *READ*WRITE*NOW!* summer program.

We invite you to change a child's life by joining the hundreds of thousands of *READ*WRITE*NOW!* learning partners who are helping children read and write throughout the United States.

Sincerely,



Handwritten signature of Richard W. Riley in black ink.

Richard W. Riley
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education



Handwritten signature of David Novak in black ink.

David Novak
Group President and CEO
Pizza Hut, Inc.



Handwritten signature of Elizabeth Martinez in black ink.

Elizabeth Martinez
Executive Director
American Library Association



Handwritten signature of Ruth Graves in black ink.

Ruth Graves
President
Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

Handwritten signature of Richard Robinson in black ink.

Richard Robinson
President
Scholastic Inc.



writing.

6. Reward yourself and your reader for the work you have done in reading and writing.
5. Encourage your reader to use the Reading Challenge Log. Record daily reading and a new vocabulary word every day.
4. Read and write with the young reader for at least 30 minutes, once a week. Ask your reader to read alone the other 4 days each week.
3. Take your reader to the library to get a library card and ask your reader to choose books to read.
2. Pick a place where you can meet with the reader at least once a week. Meet in a safe place agreeable to your young reader's family — at home, a library, a youth facility, a church, or the school.
1. Find a young reader who wants to READ*WRITE*NOW! This can be your own child or one in your community.

To the Learning Partner:

AMERICA READS CHALLENGE: READ*WRITE*NOW!

HOW TO MEET THE

HOW TO MEET THE

AMERICA READS CHALLENGE: READ*WRITE*NOW!

To the Young Reader:



1. Find a good book at home, school, or at the public library.
2. Read and write 5 days every week for at least 30 minutes each day.
3. On one of those days, have someone read to or with you for at least 30 minutes.
4. Learn one new word and what it means every day.
5. Get a library card and use it.

AMERICA READS CHALLENGE: *READ*WRITE*NOW!*

READING AND VOCABULARY LOG

To meet the ***READ*WRITE*NOW!*** Challenge, read for at least 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week, and learn one new vocabulary word every day. Keep track of the days you read in the weekly log on this side, and write down the new words you learn on the vocabulary log on the other side. Go ahead! Challenge yourself!

Name _____

Write down the dates you read for at least 30 minutes a day in the boxes below. Star the days you meet with your learning partner.

Week 1					
Week 2					
Week 3					
Week 4					
Week 5					
Week 6					
Week 7					
Week 8					

VOCABULARY LOG

Every day write down one new vocabulary word that you learn. When you fill in all of the boxes, you will know 40 new words!

1	11	21	31
2		22	
	13		33
4		24	
	15		35
6	5	26	36
7	17	27	37
8	18	28	38
9	19	29	39
10	20	30	40



HELP MEET THE

★
**AMERICA
READS
CHALLENGE**

★
READ*WRITE*NOW!

**U.S. Department
of Education
1-800-USA-LEARN**

**TIPS FOR FAMILIES
TO MEET THE**

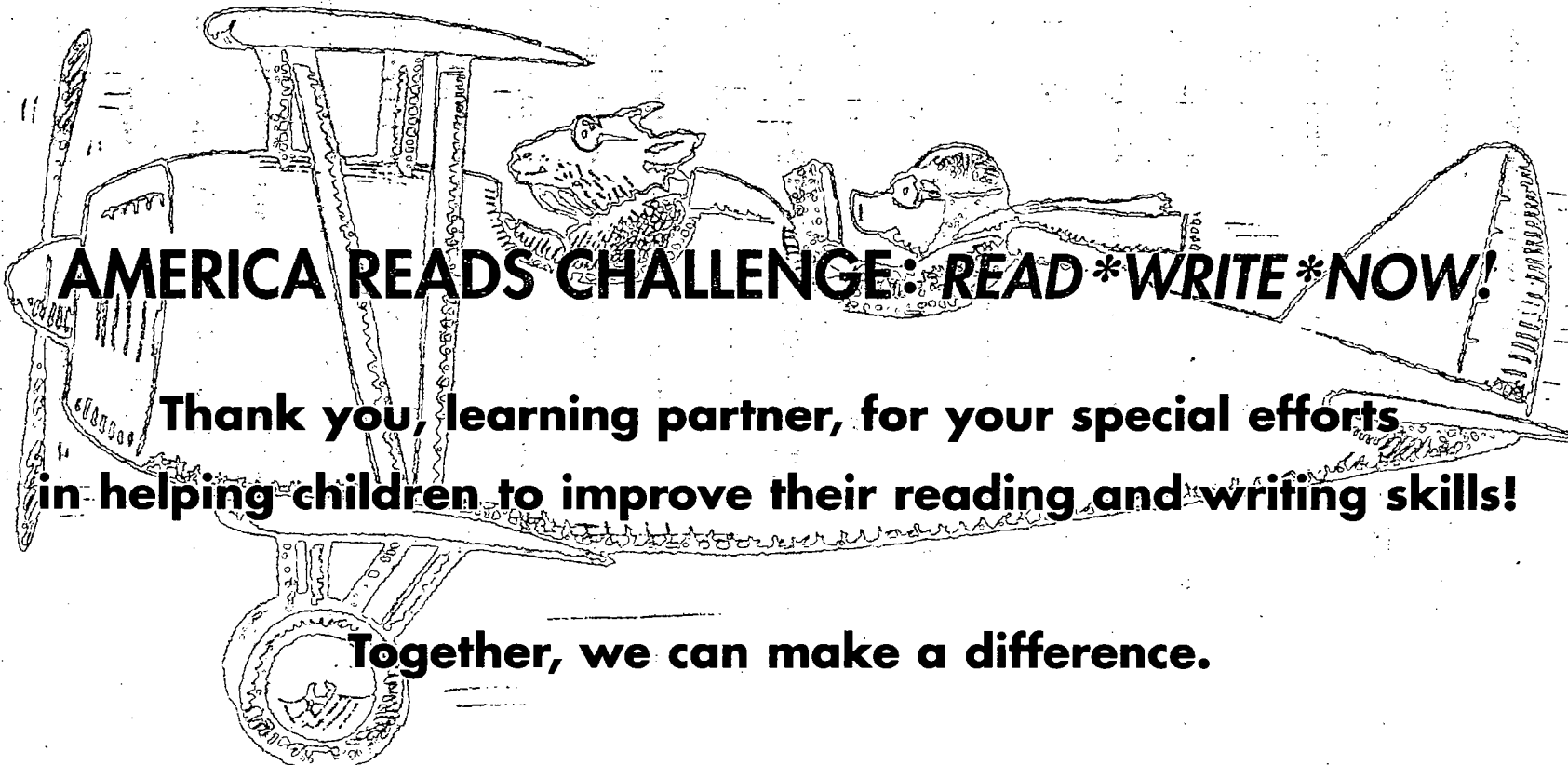
★
**AMERICA
READS
CHALLENGE**



One of the things that we have to commit ourselves to as a country is to say that every eight-year-old in America will be able to pick up an appropriate book and say, "I read this all by myself."

President of the United States
William J. Clinton

- ★ Talk with your children as you do daily activities together.
- ★ Read with children at a regular time every day for at least 30 minutes a day, and when children ask you.
- ★ Get a library card for each child in your family. Take them to the library and encourage them to choose their own books.
- ★ Create a special place in your home for your children to read and write. Keep reading and writing materials where children can safely reach them.
- ★ Take books and writing materials with you wherever you go — in the car, on the bus, or in the doctor's office.
- ★ Show children how you read and write every day to have fun and to get things done.



AMERICA READS CHALLENGE: READ*WRITE*NOW!

Thank you, learning partner, for your special efforts
in helping children to improve their reading and writing skills!

Together, we can make a difference.



Richard W. Riley

Richard W. Riley
Secretary
U. S. Department of Education



Elizabeth Martinez

Elizabeth Martinez
Executive Director
American Library Association

Richard Robinson

Richard Robinson
President
Scholastic Inc.

 SCHOLASTIC

David Novak

David Novak
Group President and CEO
Pizza Hut, Inc.



Ruth Graves

Ruth Graves
President
Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.



AMERICA READS CHALLENGE: READ*WRITE*NOW! SPONSORS

AMERICA READS CHALLENGE: READ*WRITE*NOW! — a grassroots initiative to improve the reading and writing skills of America's children so that they may read well and independently by the end of third grade — is sponsored by the U. S. Department of Education and schools, libraries, businesses, and educational, youth, literacy, and religious organizations. Together, these sponsors have developed and supported **READ*WRITE*NOW!** projects in communities across the United States to bring reading and writing to children that need extra help, especially in the summer when reading skills can drop off. The following organizations are joining together to help meet President Clinton's **AMERICA READS CHALLENGE**:

AMC Entertainment, Inc.
AmeriCorps Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center
American Library Association
AT&T
Baltimore Reads
Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy
B'nai B'rith Youth Organization
Books and Beyond
Boys and Girls Clubs of America
Center for the Book in the Library of Congress
Children's Literacy Initiative
Corporation for National Service
Council for Educational Development and Research
Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
District of Columbia Street Law Project
Educational Publishing Group
Everybody Wins!
First Book
Franklin Electronic Publishers
Girl Scouts of USA
Grolier
Hadassah
HIPPY USA
Houston READ Commission
Institute of Educational Leadership
International Reading Association
Kaplan Companies
K-III Communications, Inc.
Lamaze Institute for Family Education
Laubach Literacy Action
Lazarus Foundation

The Lightbeam Group
Lightspan
The Links, Inc.
Literacy Volunteers of America
M&M/MARS
Marvel Entertainment Group
MegaSkills Education Center, Home and School Institute
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Coordinators of Compensatory Education
National Center for Family Literacy
National Dairy Council
National Institute for Literacy
National Newspaper Foundation
National Retired Teachers' Association
National Urban League
National Writing Project
Newspaper Association of America Foundation
Newspapers in Education
Nickelodeon
Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc.
Pizza Hut, Inc.
Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.
Reading Recovery Council of North America
Scholastic Inc.
Software Publishers Association
Thomson Newspaper Corporation
Time Warner
USA Today
WGBH
The Washington Post

AMERICA READS CHALLENGE: READ*WRITE*NOW!

You have reached the **READ*WRITE*NOW!**
Reading and Writing Challenge Goal.

GOOD WORK!

(Child's Name)



Rich Riley

Richard W. Riley
Secretary
U. S. Department of Education



Elizabeth Martinez

Elizabeth Martinez
Executive Director
American Library Association

Richard Robinson
Richard Robinson
President
Scholastic Inc.

SCHOLASTIC

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Council for Educational Development and Research
Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
District of Columbia Street Law Project
Educational Publishing Group
Everybody Wins!
First Book
Franklin Electronic Publishers
Girl Scouts of USA
Grolier
Hadassah
HIPPY USA
Houston READ Commission
Institute of Educational Leadership
International Reading Association
Kaplan Companies
K-III Communications, Inc.
Lamaze Institute for Family Education
Laubach Literacy Action
Lazarus Foundation

The Lightbeam Group
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The Links, Inc.
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M&M/MARS
Marvel Entertainment Group
MegaSkills Education Center, Home and School Institute
National Association of Elementary School Principals
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National Association of State Coordinators of Compensatory Education
National Center for Family Literacy
National Dairy Council
National Institute for Literacy
National Newspaper Foundation
National Retired Teachers' Association
National Urban League
National Writing Project
Newspaper Association of America Foundation
Newspapers in Education
Nickelodeon
Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc.
Pizza Hut, Inc.
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Reading Recovery Council of North America
Scholastic Inc.
Software Publishers Association
Thomson Newspaper Corporation
Time Warner
USA Today
WGBH
The Washington Post

**AMERICA READS CHALLENGE:
READ*WRITE*NOW!**

PIZZA AWARD CERTIFICATE

You have met your goal for the
READ*WRITE*NOW! SUMMER READING
AND WRITING CHALLENGE.

This entitles you to **ONE FREE PERSONAL PAN PIZZA***,
one topping, at any participating Pizza Hut* restaurant.*
Congratulations!

**I met my goal for the
READ*WRITE*NOW! SUMMER READING
AND WRITING CHALLENGE.**

Child's Name

Grade

School Name

Learning Partner's Signature

Date Issued



*Please present this certificate when ordering. It is valid anytime during normal business hours, only for the child who has earned the certificate and only when the child is accompanied by a learning partner or a family member. Limit one certificate per child per visit. No group redemptions or pizza parties are permitted with this certificate. Five-minute guarantee does not apply. Certificate is valid only between August 15, 1997, and September 18, 1997. Cash redemption value is 1/20¢. **No duplicate copies of this certificate will be accepted.**

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AMERICA READS CHALLENGE

READ*WRITE*NOW!



ACTIVITIES FOR READING AND WRITING FUN

**A Joint Project of the U.S. Department of Education, the American Library Association,
Pizza Hut, Inc., Scholastic Inc., and Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.**

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READ  WRITE  NOW!

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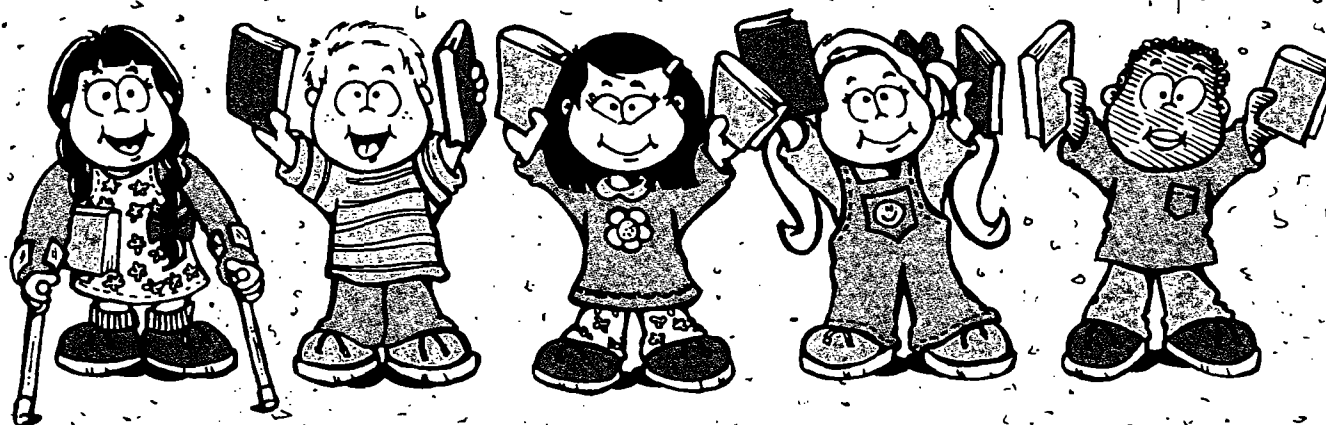
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Celebrate!

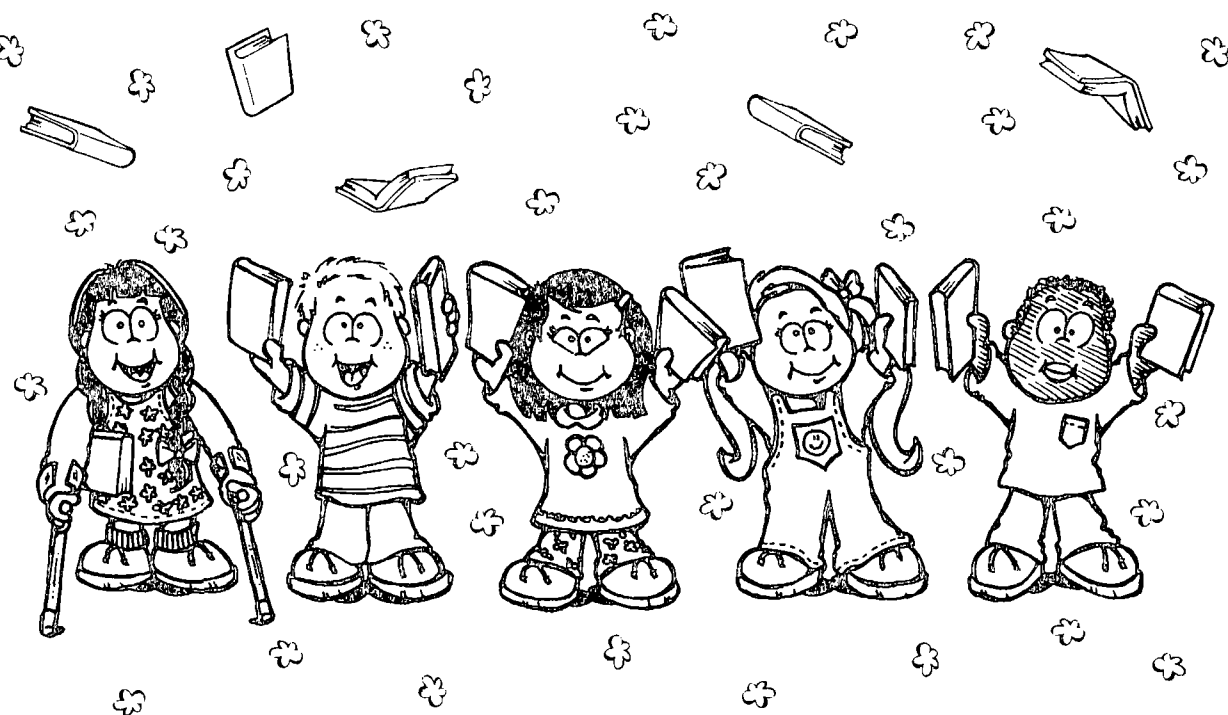


AMERICA READS CHALLENGE
READY★SET★READ

1997-1998 EARLY CHILDHOOD ACTIVITY CALENDAR

A Joint Project of the U.S. Department of Education, the Corporation for National Service,
the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Books and Beyond

Celebrate!



AMERICA READS CHALLENGE

READY ★ SET ★ READ

EARLY CHILDHOOD GROWTH CHART

WHAT MANY CHILDREN DO IN LANGUAGE

Age		What many children do...	If you have concerns about your child's development, talk with a professional such as a pediatrician...
Young Babies	Newborn	Babies listen and respond to your voice and other sounds; they tell their feelings by cooing, gurgling, smiling, and crying.	★ If your 3-month-old does not respond to your voice and other sounds.
	3 to 8 months	Babies play with sounds and they babble to themselves. They use sounds to communicate (smiling at the sound of a happy voice, and crying or looking unhappy on hearing an angry voice). Babies can play peek-a-boo. They wave arms and kick feet to show excitement, and they enjoy being read to.	★ If your 8-month-old is not making several sounds or does not reach for and grasp objects.
Crawlers and Walkers	8 to 12 months	Babies understand and respond to gestures, facial expressions, and changes in tone of voice. If someone asks, "Where's Mommy?" babies will look for their mother. Babies understand simple words, such as "Da Da." Babies put books in their mouths and turn pages in sturdy books.	★ If your baby does not look at people who talk to him or her. If your baby is not pointing at or making sounds to get what he or she wants, like favorite toys.
	12 to 18 months	Babies say first words. They understand a few words and simple directions. They know their own names. They will give you a toy if you ask for it. Babies create long babbling sentences and look at picture books with interest.	★ If your 18-month-old does not say more than a few words clearly.
Toddlers	18 to 24 months	Toddlers put two or more words together to make short sentences like "want juice" or "car go." Toddlers learn new words quickly. They can copy adult sounds, words, and motions. Toddlers ask and answer simple questions. They can use crayons and markers for scribbling.	★ If your 20-month-old cannot follow simple requests, such as, "Come to Daddy." If your 24-month-old does not use two words together.
	24 to 36 months	Older toddlers listen to stories being read. They like to play pretend games. They love asking "why" questions. They use "no" and "not" a lot. Toddlers enjoy looking at picture books, turning pages, and naming objects they see. Their scribbling is becoming more like writing.	★ If your 2-year-old does not ask questions or respond to simple questions with "yes" or "no."
Preschoolers	3 to 4	Young preschoolers make comments and requests, and	★ If your 3- to-4-year-old does not use language

	happened and make up stories. They listen attentively to stories and retell stories themselves. They enjoy books that tell about real things as well as make-believe. They may revert to toddler behavior when feeling upset or shy. They make shapes such as circles and squares and pretend to write the way they have seen adults write.	to use language to solve problems and learn concepts.
4 to 5 years	Preschoolers know the names and sex of family members and other personal information. They play with words and make up silly words and stories. They are beginning to draw figures that represent people, animals, and objects. They understand that pictures, numbers, words, and letters are symbols of real things and ideas. They "write" as a way to tell stories and offer information. They enjoy "reading" on their own. They may recognize a few words such as their name or words on signs	★ If your child is embarrassed and disturbed by his or her speech, or if you or your child's caregiver have concerns about your child's language skills.
5 to 6 years	Children can recognize and reproduce many shapes, letters, and numbers. They are gaining control over writing and drawing tools. They understand that letters written on a page represent spoken words. They use invented spelling (tp for top, Mry for Mary). They dictate stories for others to write. They enjoy using computers.	★ Work with your child's teacher to assess his or her language skills through the elementary school system.

ACTIVITIES TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN ABOUT LANGUAGE

Here are some activities to help your child learn about language. Do them for as long as your child enjoys them. Then add new activities as the child grows older.

Newborn to 3 months	Listen and talk to your baby throughout the day. ★ Find out what your baby's sounds and actions mean. Talk to your child about what he or she seems to be saying. ★ While feeding, diapering, and bathing your baby, take time to sing songs, say nursery rhymes, and smile and coo in response to the baby's smiles and coos. ★ Smile and praise your baby for learning something new.
3 to 8 months	Talk and play with your baby. ★ Use words and play actions when talking with your baby. ★ Play games with your baby, such as peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake, that teach your child about taking turns when communicating with another person. ★ Place a rattle in your baby's hand. Hold out a squeeze toy for your baby to grab. ★ Hand things to your baby and ask the baby to hand them back.
8 to 12 months	Read and tell stories with your baby every day. ★ Make reading a shared experience. Point to pictures and name the objects. ★ Provide books that are safe to touch and taste. Cloth, vinyl, and washable books are good for babies to handle. ★ When you read to your baby, hold the baby on your lap and hold the book so that the baby can see the pictures. ★ Use puppets, dolls, and other toys as story props.
12 to 18 months	Provide play materials that match your baby's skill and interest. ★ Let your child "play telephone." Have a pretend telephone conversation. ★ Let your child play with pots, pans, wooden spoons, plastic containers, and other safe household items ★ Arrange pillows and other objects on the floor for your child to crawl around or on and play with.
18 to 24 months	Help your toddler talk about the present, the past, and the future. ★ Help your toddler learn new words to talk about what he or she did in the past and will do in the future. "I think it's going to be sunny tomorrow. What would you like to do?" ★ Discuss the day's events at bedtime. "Remember when we went to the park?"
24 to 36 months	Read books and do activities that let toddlers join in. ★ Play make-believe with your toddler. Provide props so that the toddler can play dress-up or doctor. ★ Arrange a special time for reading. ★ Respond to your toddler's request to be read to. ★ Read some of the same books again and again, and encourage your toddler to join in with the words he or she knows.
3 to 4 years	Provide books in English and in your family's home language. ★ Let your child see him- or herself in books. Choose some books about families like yours and people from your cultural and ethnic group. ★ Have a special place for books, magazines, and other reading materials in the home. Your child should be able to reach books without help in a reading corner and in other places around the home. ★ Help your child to create his or her own "This Is Me" album. Together with your child look at and talk about the family album, photographs, or special memorabilia.
4 to 5 years	Show your child how reading and writing are important in daily life. ★ Point out the print around you and show how it serves a purpose. Watch TV together and talk about books that relate to topics seen on TV. ★ Let your child see you enjoying a book or magazine often. ★ Encourage reading in different places. When you go out with your child, take books for the child to read in the car or on the bus.
5 to 6 years	Make sure that your child has writing materials and places to write. ★ Let your child see you write every day. ★ Put writing materials for your child—paper, pencils, crayons, markers, and chalk—in an open box on a low shelf so that the child can reach them easily ★ Talk with your child about his or her writing. ★ If you cannot read the words your child has written, ask your child to read the writing to you. Over time, your child will learn how to write words that others can read.

A Joint Project of the Corporation for National Service, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

PLEASE HANG CHART ON THE WALL 2 FEET FROM THE FLOOR