



Secondary Read-at-Home Plan for ELLs

**A PARENT GUIDE FOR DEVELOPING LANGUAGE AND
READING SKILLS**

Dear Parents,



As a parent of an English Language Learner (ELL), you play a key role in your child's language and academic growth. Strong reading skills are essential for success, and this guide offers practical tips to help your child improve at home.

Miami-Dade Public Schools supports ELLs and will show you how you can collaborate with teachers. This resource includes information on WIDA standards and Florida's Read-at-Home Plan, which provides additional tools for language development.

Supporting your child's reading journey takes patience, consistency, and encouragement. By reading together, learning new words in English or the home language, and creating a positive learning space, you are helping them succeed. Every small step counts—let's work together to build their literacy skills and future success!

WIDA STANDARDS

M-DCPS uses **WIDA** to assess and support English learners. This system measures listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and categorizes proficiency levels.

Knowing your child's WIDA level helps you support their learning at home. Teachers also use WIDA to plan lessons and track progress.

To learn more about WIDA, click the link below:

What Is ACCESS for ELLs?
(multiple languages)



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is dedicated to supporting English Language Learners (ELLs) in achieving academic success.

Here are some key services:

Secondary ESOL Courses:

- **Developmental Language Arts Through ESOL:** Strengthens middle and high school students' English language development, based on their language levels. Your child will receive tailored instruction based on their English proficiency level using the WIDA levels to guide lessons and assess progress.
- **Language Arts/English Through ESOL:** Uses an on grade-level standards-based curriculum and incorporates listening, speaking, reading, and writing and prepares students for the state assessment in Reading.

Language Support:

- **CCHL Paraprofessional:** Provides translation support in the content areas for ELLs.



ELL Parent Resources:

- **After-School Programs & Tutoring:** Many schools offer additional support through after-school programs and tutoring specifically for ELLs.
- **Parent Resources & Workshops:** Schools organize workshops to help you support your child's learning at home. At these workshops, you can learn about strategies to help your child at home and how to stay involved in their education.
- **The M-DCPS Parent Academy, Bilingual Parent Outreach Program (BPOP):** offers parental engagement workshops and videos to parents of English Language Learners (ELL).
- **Colorín Colorado (colorincolorado.org):** This is a comprehensive bilingual website (English and Spanish) dedicated to providing information, activities, and advice for educators and families of ELLs.
- **Language Assistance:** Miami-Dade County Public Schools offers language assistance for parents. If you need help understanding school communications or interacting with teachers, language support is available at the school site.
- **Stay informed:** Your Child's School will provide guidance, updates, and resources specific to your child's needs.
- **Technology and Language Acquisition:** M-DCPS provides technology tools which support language development through interactive lessons. To improve, students should complete their required minutes each week independently, without parental assistance. Ask your child what they are through learning in their technology programs.



THE FOUR LANGUAGE DOMAINS AND THEIR ROLE IN READING DEVELOPMENT

Language development involves mastering the following domains:

Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Each domain is equally important to academic success. By supporting your child in these areas, you can strengthen their overall reading skills and lay a foundation for academic success.



LISTENING

What is it?

Listening connects general comprehension. It involves hearing sounds, recognizing words, and interpreting meaning.

How can you help at home?

- **Listen to stories and songs:** Play English audiobooks or listen to television in English to expose your child to correct pronunciation and vocabulary.
- **Discuss what they hear:** Ask questions about the story or song to improve comprehension.
- **Create a listening-rich environment:** Use movies, podcasts, and news with varied accents to enhance skills.
- **Repeat and re-listen:** Playing the same content multiple times reinforces learning.
- **Connect to community:** When you go shopping or order food, pay attention to what people are saying. Don't be afraid to ask them to repeat something.



SPEAKING

What is it?

Speaking helps your child express ideas, share thoughts, and communicate.

How can you help at home?

- **Have conversations:** Speak to your child daily about school, hobbies, and daily activities.
- **Encourage discussion time:** Set time aside to talk about their day in school. Ask: What was one thing you learned in Math class today?
- **Play "I-Spy":** Find a common object and say, "I-Spy something green and round" let them guess.
- **Give praise and corrections:** Encourage speaking and gently correct mistakes by modeling proper speech.
- **Practice identifying cognates:** When you speak, help your child identify words in their native that sound the similar and same meaning in English.

THE FOUR LANGUAGE DOMAINS AND THEIR ROLE IN READING DEVELOPMENT



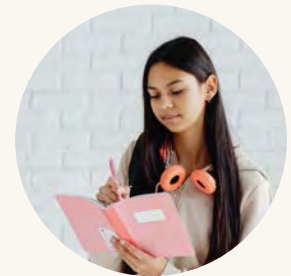
READING

What is it?

Reading is understanding written text and is essential for academic and career success.

How can you help at home?

- **Help me out:** Ask your child to help you read a recipe or directions.
- **Share a page:** Have your child read 1 page/paragraph of an assignment, you read another and discuss.
- **Play Detective:** Have your child read, find new words, cognates and find relationships of words.
- **Make reading interactive:** Encourage predictions and thoughts about a story or text.
- **Use picture clues:** Help connect words to pictures for better understanding.
- **Create a routine:** Set a regular reading time to build a habit.



WRITING

What is it?

Writing helps children organize thoughts, express ideas, and communicate.

How can you help at home?

- **Harness technology:** Create a blog or online journaling. Make it fun, pretend they are writing their autobiography
- **Write reviews:** Write a sports review or review of their favorite movie or TV series.
- **Write short stories:** Practice spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure together, write a silly story about their family.
- **Use drawing:** Let them draw before writing to organize thoughts and boost creativity.
- **Practice spelling:** Make it fun with spelling games or challenges.
- **Give prompts:** Inspire writing with topics like "If I could I would " or "My ideal vacation."
- **Review and revise:** Read their work together and suggest improvements.

COMPREHENSION AND VOCABULARY: KEYS TO READING SUCCESS

Comprehension and vocabulary development are closely linked to all four language domains. Strong reading and listening comprehension allows your child to fully communicate. A rich vocabulary in their native language enables them to express their thoughts more effectively in English.

COMPREHENSION

What is it?

Comprehension is understanding and processing the meaning of a text.

How can you help at home?

- **Spark Chats:** Go beyond asking "What happened?". Ask your child "Why do you think that happened" or "How does that change the character or plot?".
- **Summarize:** Have your child retell the main ideas of a story or what they are learning about in school in their own words.
- **Make predictions:** Ask what might happen next to boost engagement.
- **Connect to experiences:** Relate the story to real-life events, movies or books.
- **Break down ideas:** Pause to explain difficult words or concepts and have your child rephrase them.

VOCABULARY

What is it?

Vocabulary is the words we know and use. A strong vocabulary improves comprehension and fluency.

How can you help at home?

- **Learn new words together:** Look up new words and use them in daily sentences.
- **Play vocabulary games:** Use fun activities like "I Spy" or flashcards.
- **Use new words in conversation:** Encourage your child to practice new words daily.
- **Label household items:** Place labels on objects to reinforce word meanings.
- **Create a vocabulary book:** Let your child write new words and draw pictures.
- **Practice word families:** Teach related words like "hat," "rat," and "cat."



M-DCPS' READ-AT-HOME PLAN FOR PARENTS: TIPS FOR SUPPORTING ELLS

M-DCPS' Read-at-Home Plan is designed to help parents foster a love of reading in English or the home language and improve literacy skills.

- **Get a free library card:** Visit the public library and look for books together.
- **Connect to Real World Interest:** Encourage your teen to find books or online reading of their interest or future goals.
- **Make it Social:** Have a family dinner where you talk about books you are reading and what they are learning about in school.
- **Turn off technology and set reading time:** Twice a week set a time where everyone in the house is reading a book. Discuss at meal times.
- **Ask Questions:** Encourage critical thinking with open-ended questions about the story. Frame "why" and "how does that make you feel" questions.
- **Encourage Writing:** Have your child write summaries, letters to authors, or story continuations.
- **Celebrate Progress:** Praise their efforts to keep them motivated.

RESOURCES AND LINKS

M-DCPS Department of Bilingual Education & World Languages

M-DCPS Parent Guide [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Creole](#)

[M-DCPS Parent Academy](#)

ELL Videos for Families: [WIDA](#)

ESOL - Secondary [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Creole](#)

M-DCPS [Read-at-Home Plan](#)





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who will teach my child?

Your child will be taught by teachers who are certified in the state of Florida and also hold ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) endorsements or certifications. This ensures they have the specialized training and expertise needed to support your child's English language development.

2. What support will my child receive while learning English?

Your child will receive personalized support based on multiple data sources, including test scores and classroom performance. These insights help teachers tailor instruction and monitor progress effectively. Instruction will focus on developing both social and academic English skills, enabling your child to better understand and engage with schoolwork. Technology resources are available through the student portal before, during, and after school hours. Additionally, your child is eligible for testing accommodations on district and state assessments, such as extended time and access to an English/Heritage language dictionary.

3. How will I know how my child is doing in English and other subjects?

You will receive regular updates through report cards and progress reports, and you are encouraged to attend parent-teacher conferences. You can also monitor your child's academic performance at any time via the Parent Portal or the M-DCPS mobile app. If you have any concerns, it is recommended to reach out directly to the school for support.

4. What state tests do English Language Learners have to take?

All students in Florida, including English Language Learners (ELLs), are required to take statewide standardized assessments appropriate for their grade level. In addition, ELLs take the ACCESS for ELLs language assessment annually. This test measures English language proficiency and helps determine placement for the following school year.

5. When will my child exit the ESOL program?

Each year, your child will take the ACCESS for ELLs assessment to evaluate their English proficiency and determine their placement. Your child will exit the ESOL program once they achieve the required scores on both the ACCESS for ELLs and the ELA Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST).