

# what is my child learning during literacy centers?

## independent reading:

During Independent Reading, your child is practicing his/her reading skills. Your child must practice reading every day in order to become a better reader. Your child practices reading with books of his/her choice on his/her independent reading level.

## buddy reading:

During Buddy Reading, your child is practicing his/her reading skills with a classmate. Buddy Reading is important because it helps the students work together within our learning community, while building reading fluency, expression, and comprehension skills.

## listening to reading:

During Listening to Reading, your child is listening to books on the computer, tape/CD, or other audio recordings. This is important because as your child hears models of fluent reading, he/she will try this in their own reading. Your child is also introduced to new words, thus building a stronger vocabulary.

# what is my child learning during literacy centers?

## independent writing

During Independent Writing, your child is practicing his/her writing skills. Your child is focused on his/her writing goal and is engaged as he/she moves through the stages of the writing process. Your child completes creative writing activities in which he/she works on brainstorming writing topics, sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and other writing mechanics.

## working with words

When your child is working with words, he/she is exploring letters, letter sounds, short vowels, long vowels, blends, digraphs, phrases, sentences, and more! This is important so that your child can work to improve his/her spelling, which in turn will aid in his/her reading and writing development.



# how can i help my child with these skills at home?

## independent reading

Give your child 15–20 minutes of uninterrupted reading time each day. Your child can check out books at the public library or read books that he/she brings home from school. Ask your child's teacher about his/her current independent reading level. You can use [www.scholastic.com/bookwizard](http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard) to help you find books on the appropriate level.

## buddy reading

Have your child spend time reading books to you or other family members. You should also spend time reading books to your child.

## listening to reading

Your child can spend time listening to reading using the computer and books on tape or CD's. You can download audio books or record yourself reading a book. Check out [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com) and [www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net) for listening to reading at home.



# how can i help my child with these skills at home?

## independent writing

Help your child with writing at home by helping him/her create a list of favorite topics to write about. You can buy your child a notebook to keep at home or have your child help you create the grocery list. When traveling, encourage your child to write about his/her favorite parts of the trip.

## working with words

Have your child spend time creating spelling words, sight words, or word families (cat, hat, bat). Your child can use magnetic letters, word tiles, scrabble tiles, sidewalk chalk, crayons, dry erase markers, sand, Magna-Doodles, water, Wiki sticks, cereal, beans, and much more to create words!



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