



# QUARTERLY UPDATE

Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2020

## TOP NEWS INSIDE

- [Reading Tips for Families](#)
- [All About Reading Mentoring](#)
- [Dyslexia | Assistive Technology for Reading](#)
- [Adolescent Literacy | Kid Zone!](#)
- [English Language Learners and Learning Disability diagnosis](#)
- [National Center on improving Literacy](#)
- [Ten Car Games to Get Your Child Ready to Read!](#)
- [Summer Reading for Children with Dyslexia](#)
- [PACER Resources](#)
- [Additional Reading Resources](#)



## How to Help Your Child Be a Better Reader

We know from the research that families want to help their children in reading, but often lack the knowledge and resources to do this. In this newsletter, we've highlighted valuable content for families to review and use, starting with babies through adolescent years. Many resources are also shown at the end of the newsletter. We're hoping this newsletter has the information you need to support your child's reading experience.



This document contains links to other resources. Clicking the title of each article will provide you with more information from the source.



## Reading Tips for

Families website was created to provide reading tips, ideas, and resources for Ohio's families. This website is a collaborative partnership between the Ohio Department of Education's Office for Exceptional Children and the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities. New reading resources are uploaded regularly, so please check back often.



Some of the family friendly resources on the Reading Tips for Families website include:



**Reading Tips and Activities** starting from Birth to Age 2, Ages 3-5, Kindergarten and First Grade, through Elementary School.

**Video Resources** for Families include every day activities that you can do with your children to encourage language and reading.



## DayByDay Ohio FAMILY LITERACY CALENDAR

**Day By Day Ohio** is a partner website. This website offers excellent resources that can help you engage in fun and educational activities with your child.

**Glossary** has definitions of words from A-Z that relate to reading.



**SEND US A TIP**

**Tips From Families** include activities from families that have worked for their children. Click on the "Send Us A Tip" (red button) button to let us know if you have favorite resources that we can share with other families.

## All About Reading Mentoring (AARM)

OCECD provides a free 1:1 reading mentoring training to Ohio families. Our AARM training was designed to help family members mentor their own children in reading. One parent commented *“Thank you so much, I can't believe the progress my son has made over the summer!!!!!!”*

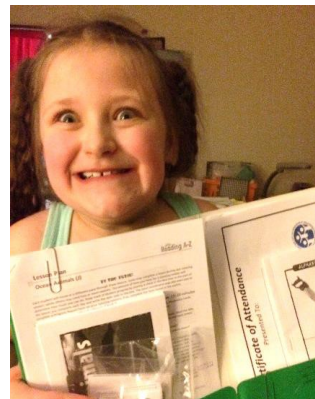
AARM uses evidence-based guided reading materials ([www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)) with a hands-on approach. Any child reading below an early 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading level can benefit from these resources. Providing convenient, well-organized, and educationally sound mentoring resources for reading was the driving force behind the development of Reading A-Z's Tutoring & Mentoring Packs. *“I can't thank you enough, this year in 4th grade he has to read for 20 minutes and write three sentences about what he read. He gets the timer himself and starts reading when he gets home. We have always had tears in the past, I truly believe that the routine we used during our mentoring time has helped with his new reading routine. Thank you again.”* – AARM trained parent

AARM's reading mentoring materials address the National Reading Panel's “5 Big Ideas in Reading Instruction” as keys to developing successful readers, which are:

- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension



The AARM training provides step-by-step guidance to those learning to mentor. This training includes over an hour of exploring the mentoring folder contents. Family members of



students with reading difficulties are invited to register for this free 1.5-hour training. Any family member who attends the training will receive a free login to Reading A-Z for one year.

Registration details are included for the training, including on-demand webinar, at [www.OCECD.org](http://www.OCECD.org). PC's mother shared, *“I love using the A to Z material lesson plans. Each lesson is easy to follow. My son, who has always been a reluctant reader, loved being able to choose the book from his level. He was always ready to sit down and read with me, he would always say ‘we're done already?’”*



## Dyslexia

Dyslexia is the most commonly diagnosed learning disability affecting about one in every five kids. Dyslexia accounts for 80 to 90 percent of kids who have learning disorders.

The [National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH) describes dyslexia as a brain-based learning disability that specifically impairs a person's ability to read. Dr. Sally Shaywitz, co-director of the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity, notes that many children go undiagnosed, as struggles in school are incorrectly attributed to intelligence, level of effort, or environmental factors.

- Dyslexia is related to reading difficulties, **not** difficulties that arise from intellectual functioning.

- Dyslexia does not imply the individual cannot read. People with dyslexia can learn to read with evidence-based explicit instruction, but may still have to put forth more effort.
- Dyslexia does not otherwise impact the brain structure or functioning, or the intellectual, imaginative, or emotional functioning of the individual. In non-reading areas, abilities of those with dyslexia mirror those without dyslexia. Individuals with dyslexia do not necessarily see and write letters or words backwards. Dyslexia is associated with brain-based phonological impairments, not visual problems.



### Dyslexia Resources

- [Our Dyslexic Children video](#): This video tells the story of a group of families in an Ohio school district whose children were performing poorly in school.
- [Understanding Dyslexia](#)
- [Effects of Dyslexia](#)
- [A Day in the Life of a Child with Dyslexia](#)



## Assistive Technology for Reading

Assistive technology (AT) can be a powerful way to help children with reading issues, including kids with dyslexia. This guide is an introduction to AT tools for reading and where to find them. If your child has [trouble with reading](#), it can help her to hear books read aloud as she looks at the printed words. She can do this by listening to an audiobook while flipping through a traditional book, or she can use [text-to-speech](#) to hear the words in a digital book. You can find free options

for both audiobooks and digital text-to-speech books.

### AT Resources:

#### Where to Find Free Audiobooks and Digital Text-to-Speech Books for Your Child

- Audiobooks and digital text-to-speech books can be a good way to help kids with reading issues.
- You can get these books for free from libraries, schools and online sources like [Bookshare for Students](#)
- Talk to your school and local library about what's available for your child.



## English Language Learners (ELL) and Learning Disability (LD) Diagnosis

How parents can help kids get the right support

“English language learners (ELL students) sometimes receive incorrect or incomplete LD diagnoses. That’s because they’re learning English at the same time as other school subjects, so it can be hard to determine the cause of any learning difficulties.



If your child is an ELL student and has been diagnosed with a LD, here are some tips to help you make sure their diagnosis is correct and support them going forward. “To prevent a misdiagnosis, parents need to be involved in the evaluation process,” says Daryaneh Badaly, PhD, a neuropsychologist at Child Mind Institute. “They need to provide the evaluator with important information about their child, including their educational history,

You can also tell the evaluator about any cultural differences that might affect testing. “For example, not all Spanish dialects are the same,” says Dr. Badaly. “If they use a test created for someone with a different dialect or cultural background, then results could be incorrect.”

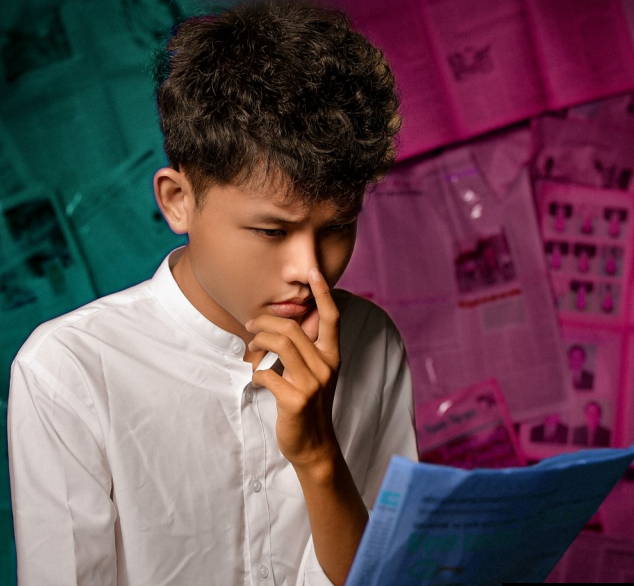
As a parent, you may be wondering whether you should be reading to your children in Spanish or English. The article [Why Reading to Your Kids in Your Home Language Will Help Them Become Better Readers](#) provides suggestions of ways that you can help your child develop his or her literacy skills in your family’s native language and explains the research behind the recommendations.

If you need assistance with the language translation of this newsletter, please contact us at 1-844-382-5452.

### Multicultural Resources

- [Colorin Colorado](#): A bilingual site for families and educators of English language learners to help children become better readers.
- [Unite for Literacy](#): Online children’s books with text in English or Spanish and narration in a variety of languages.
- [Read Today](#): A bilingual site to learn letters and their sounds, numbers, colors and shapes.

## Adolescent Literacy



### Prepare your child for school and lifelong success.

Learning styles and study needs are personal and different for each individual child. Take note of your child's study preferences, such as where they prefer to work, acceptable noise levels, break times, and lighting. It is important to encourage consistency with the developed preferences, so talk with your child's teacher about how you can both support and encourage your child's achievement.

### National Center on Improving Literacy (NCIL)



The NCIL provides resources for families to help their children become better readers. NCIL has a toolkit called [Learning about your child's reading development](#). This toolkit helps parents and families understand the many different skills involved with teaching your child to learn to read and how to support your child's reading development at school and home.

### Adolescent Literacy Resources

- [All About Adolescent Literacy](#): Resources for parents and educators of kids in grades 4-12. As a parent, you play a critical role in developing your child's literacy skills.
- [Lit2Go](#): Classic literature for older children with audio.

### [Kid Zone!](#) Is another feature from National Center for Improving Literacy (NCIL)

The Kid Zone! contains free, age-appropriate audiobooks to listen to, eBooks to read, and literacy-based games to play. The Kid Zone! also includes issues of the A.R. Chronicles, a comic book produced at NCIL featuring Kayla (who has dyslexia) and her adventures in reading. **Kid Zone!** has resources ranging from ages 4-10+.



## [Ten Car Games to Get Your Child Ready to Read!](#)

Whether you're going on a long trip or just running errands, these **car games** are perfect for helping your child get ready to read! These activities are for Preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade.



## [Summer Reading for Children with Dyslexia](#)

Here are a dozen simple strategies to help your child maintain their literacy skills. Give your child material that is motivating — and some of it should be easy. Help your child enjoy books and feel pleasure — not pressure — from reading. The summer should be a relaxed time where a love of learning can develop.

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## [PACER Center Early Childhood Family Information and Resources](#)

[Early Literacy](#) - Early literacy is much more than recognizing letters and the sounds they make. Early literacy provides a critical foundation for listening, speaking, writing, reading, and interpersonal communication that your child will rely on and grow from throughout his or her life. Learn how you can aid your child in developing these necessary skills.

[Parents Play as Key Role](#) - From the moment babies are born, they start developing literacy skills through their relationship with their parents. By talking, reading, singing, and playing with your infant or toddler, you provide the foundation your child will need to develop language and reading skills.

[Literacy Opens the World to a Child with Disabilities](#) - Literacy is more than knowing letters and words and reading. It is the main character in a lifelong story about learning, communication, self-awareness, and fulfillment.

[Helping Young Children Learn: What Parents Can Do](#) - We know that from the time a child is born they grow and learn. As parents, we don't call it "literacy," but that is the term educators use to describe the set of skills that help children learn to read and write. Parents of children with disabilities may want to be more intentional about laying the foundation for these learning skills.



### [Everyone Loves a Good Story, Including Your Toddler](#)- Toddlers

love stories. They may enjoy repeating a funny story about what happened at their birthday party, or listening to a story about the day they were born. Storytelling activities teach children about what makes a story before they actually learn to read. They can hear new words, learn the order of events, build listening and language skills, and find out more about what interests them.



### [Technology and Communication](#)-

Most people use speech and language to indicate their needs and choices or to socialize. Some children, however, have difficulty learning to talk, and others cannot use their voices at all. Fortunately, augmentative communication methods, technology, and therapy can help them communicate.

## Additional Reading Resources

### [Early Literacy](#)

[Get Ready to Read!](#): Designed to support educators, parents, and young children in the development of early literacy skills in the years before kindergarten. Intended for use with all children, the resources and information provided on this site promote skill-building, communication between adults, and ways to address concerns.

[PBS Parents](#): Activities and reading strategies for children

[Reading Is Fundamental](#): Educational activities for children, sortable by age and topic

[Colorin Colorado](#): A bilingual site for families and educators of English language learners to help become better readers.

[Unite for Literacy](#): Online children's books with text in English or Spanish and narration in a variety of languages.

[Read Today](#): A bilingual site to learn letters and their sounds, numbers, colors, and shapes.

[Checklist for Parents to Help Kids Read at Home](#): Toddlers to 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders

### [Elementary/Secondary Literacy](#)

[Reading Rockets parent resources](#): offers strategies, lessons, activities and ideas designed to help young children learn to read

[Reading Is Fundamental](#): Educational activities for children, sortable by age and topic

[Reading Rockets](#): Reading Rockets is a national public media literacy initiative offering information and resources on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help.

- [Helping Struggling Readers](#)
- [11 Ways Parents Can Help Their Children Read](#)
- [Recognizing Reading Problems](#)
- [Clues to Dyslexia in Early Childhood](#)
- [Clues to Dyslexia in Second Grade and Beyond](#)

[Storyline Online](#): Videos with animated illustrations of books read aloud by famous names.

[Making Room for Literacy](#): Watch as we show you ways for making a home rich in early literacy learning experiences. We'll show you how books, posters, magnet letters, alphabet toys, games, writing and art.





# OCECD

## OHIO COALITION FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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To remove your name from our mailing list, or if you have questions, please contact [kellyb@ocecd.org](mailto:kellyb@ocecd.org) or call 1-844-382-5452.

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## OHIO COALITION FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) is a statewide nonprofit organization that serves families of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities in Ohio, educators and agencies who provide services to them. OCECD works through the coalition efforts of over 35 parent and professional disability organizations and over 70 individual members which comprise the Coalition. OCECD has also been funded since 1984 to serve as the Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) for the state of Ohio from the federal government, U.S. Dept of Education, Office for Special Education Programs.

Established in 1972, currently employing 28 staff in 15 offices who are primarily parents or family members of children or adults with disabilities or persons with disabilities, the Coalition's mission is to ensure that every Ohio child with special needs receives a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment to enable that child to reach his/her highest potential. Throughout Ohio, the Coalition's services reach families of children and youth, birth through 26 years of age, with all disabilities.



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