

Reading For Life

Steps You Can Take To Encourage Literacy

(NAPSA)—Read all about it. There are a number of practical ways parents can nurture and encourage literacy in their home and community.

Here are some tips:

- Set aside some time—even if it's 15 minutes—to read with your child every day. Try to make it the same time in the same place.

- Encourage children to read words that they see around them—on street signs, billboards and T-shirts.

- Find at least one story from the newspaper or a magazine to read with your child every week. Give teens articles about things that interest them—music, movies, TV and computers.

- Set an example for your child and demonstrate the importance of reading in your life.

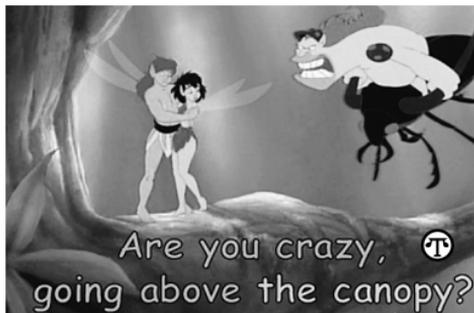
- Volunteer your time with literacy groups in your community. You can make a contribution by tutoring adults, reading to children or helping out with administrative tasks.

- Write a letter a week with your child.

- Encourage your child to watch captioned television programs and DVDs.

Studies conducted by the National Captioning Institute (NCI) and others indicate that children and adults can improve their literacy skills by viewing television programming with captions.

According to the NCI, captioned television programs and entertainment create a rich learning environment by allowing students to hear the words, see the words as captions and experience the meaning of the words by watching the images on the TV screen.



Experts say that evidence indicates that repeated viewing of captioned programs can enhance reading skills.

According to academic expert Helen Hoffner, Ed.D, “Overwhelming evidence indicates that repeated viewing of captioned programs leads to reading fluency. Parents and teachers should seize every opportunity to use captioned programming to motivate and educate young readers.”

This approach to enhancing reading comprehension has been used to create a series of DVDs that add captions to popular children's and family films in a way that both entertains and educates.

Some say that with their multi-sensory presentation and captivating entertainment qualities, the Follow Along DVDs have the potential to enable children to read with confidence. Each film in the lineup is available in both English and Spanish.

Recent films in the series—created and produced by Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment and MGM Home Entertainment—include favorites such as “Anastasia,” “Ferngully: The Last Rainforest” and “Garfield The Movie.” To learn more, visit the Web site at www.foxhome.com.