



Elementary Read-at-Home Plan for ELLs

**A PARENT GUIDE FOR DEVELOPING LANGUAGE AND
LITERACY 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 County 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 PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION

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

Here are some key services:

ESOL Support in the Classroom: Your child will receive tailored instruction based on their English proficiency level using the WIDA standards to guide lessons and assess progress.

Delivery Models to Support Language Acquisition:

- **ESOL Resource Teacher:** Instructs ESOL level 1 and 2 students (less than two years) by targeting their language and literacy needs during push-in or pull-out support.
- **ESOL Self-Contained Teacher:** Instructs ESOL level 1 and 2 students (less than two years) by targeting their language and literacy needs during the Language Arts/Reading block or during the Language Arts/Reading block and across the content areas.
- **CCHL Teacher:** Supports ESOL Level 1-2 students (in the program for less than two years) by teaching subjects like Math, Science, and Social Studies in Spanish or Haitian Creole.

Parent Resources:

- **After-School Programs & Tutoring:** Many schools offer additional support through after-school programs and tutoring specifically for ELL students. Contact your child's school for more information.
- **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).
- **New Worlds Reading:** This program is designed to support parents in helping their children develop strong reading skills through engaging activities and resources. Participating students will receive a hard copy book, delivered each month throughout the school year. In addition, families will be provided with appropriate tools and support to help their children become strong readers.
- **Language Assistance:** Miami-Dade 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.

To stay informed and actively support your child, stay in close contact with the school. They will provide guidance, updates, and resources specific to your child's needs.

IMAGINE LEARNING

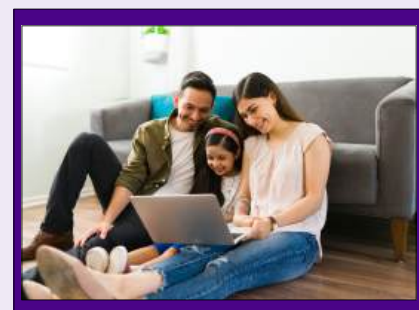
Imagine Learning supports English acquisition by enhancing vocabulary, reading, and speaking skills through interactive lessons. To improve, students should complete their required minutes each week independently, without parental assistance.

K-5: 60 Minutes Weekly

For more information, please click the link below.

Imagine Learning Webinars

[English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Creole](#)



THE FOUR LANGUAGE DOMAINS AND THEIR ROLE IN LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Language development involves mastering the following domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. By supporting your child in these areas, you can strengthen their overall reading skills and lay a foundation for academic success. With patience, practice, and support, your child will gain confidence and improve their English skills.

› LISTENING

What is it?

Listening is key to understanding language. It involves hearing sounds, recognizing words, and interpreting meaning.

How can you help at home?

- **Listen to stories and songs:** Play English audiobooks or songs 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.
- **Use visual aids:** Pictures and videos help connect words to meaning.



› SPEAKING

What is it?

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

How can you help at home?

- **Have conversations:** Talk daily about school, hobbies, and daily activities.
- **Encourage storytelling:** Ask your child to retell stories in their own words.
- **Play role-playing games:** Act out different scenarios to boost creativity and communication.
- **Give praise and corrections:** Encourage speaking and gently correct mistakes by modeling proper speech.
- **Practice pronunciation:** Focus on tricky words and sounds, improving gradually.



›››

THE FOUR LANGUAGE DOMAINS AND THEIR ROLE IN LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

➤ READING

What is it?

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

How can you help at home?

- **Read together daily:** Start with picture books and move to chapter books over time.
- **Ask questions:** Discuss the story to improve comprehension.
- **Point out new words:** Have your child read along and explain unfamiliar words.
- **Make reading interactive:** Encourage predictions and thoughts about the story.
- **Use picture clues:** Help connect words to images 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 through text.

How can you help at home?

- **Encourage journaling:** Have your child write about their day or a book they read.
- **Write short stories:** Practice spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure together.
- **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 "My favorite animal" or "My ideal day."
- **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 comprehension allows your child to fully understand what they are reading, while a rich vocabulary enables them to express their thoughts more effectively.

➤ COMPREHENSION

What is it?

Comprehension is understanding and processing the meaning of a text.

How can you help at home?

- **Ask questions:** Go beyond “What happened?” to explore details and meanings.
- **Summarize the story:** Have your child retell the main ideas in their own words.
- **Make predictions:** Ask what might happen next to boost engagement.
- **Connect to experiences:** Relate the story to real-life events.
- **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 “play,” “player,” and “playful.”



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.

- **Set a Routine:** Read at the same time each day to build a habit.
- **Pick the Right Books:** Choose interesting, level-appropriate books, starting with picture or bilingual books.
- **Visit Your Local Library:** Check out books for free and explore a wide variety of reading options without needing to purchase them.
- **Read Aloud Together:** Take turns reading and discuss the story to improve fluency and understanding.
- **Ask Questions:** Encourage critical thinking with open-ended questions about the story.
- **Encourage Writing:** Have your child write summaries, letters to characters, or story continuations.
- **Celebrate Progress:** Praise their efforts to keep them motivated.

PARENT RESOURCES, VIDEOS, AND HELPFUL 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 - Elementary [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Creole](#)

ESOL - Imagine Learning [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Creole](#)

M-DCPS Read-at-Home Plan

New Worlds Reading: Family Resources



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



1. Who will teach my child?

Your child will be taught by Florida-certified teachers who are also ESOL-endorsed or certified, ensuring they have the expertise to support your child's language development.

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

Your child will receive targeted support based on various data points, including test results and classroom work, to help teachers plan lessons and monitor progress. They will receive instruction to enhance their social and academic skills in English, enabling them to better understand classroom lessons. Digital learning resources are available through the student portal before, during, and after school. Additionally, your child is eligible for testing accommodations, such as extended time on district and state assessments and access to an English/Heritage language dictionary.

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

Schools will provide updates on your child's English progress throughout the year. You will also receive report cards, progress reports, and can attend parent-teacher conferences. You can check your child's grades anytime through the parent portal or the M-DCPS mobile app.

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

All students in Florida, including English Language Learners (ELLs), must take the statewide standardized tests for their grade level. ELLs also take the ACCESS language assessment each year to measure their English skills. The results help determine if your child stays in their ESOL level, moves to a higher level, or exits the program.

5. When will my child exit the ESOL program?

Each year, your child will take the ACCESS language assessment to measure proficiency and placement for the following year. They will exit the ESOL program once they meet the required scores on ACCESS and /or the ELA Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST).