

# BUILDING STRONG READERS



ALASKA FAMILY  
ENGAGEMENT CENTER

## How Families Can Help

### SUPPORT

**Make Reading Fun:** Create a reading-friendly environment at home with lots of books, comics, and magazines. Read together often and make time for you and your child.

### MODEL

**Talk, Sing, and Play:** Use any language to tell stories, sing songs, and play word games. These activities build reading skills.

**Ask Questions:** When reading together, ask questions about the story like “what do you think will happen?” This builds thinking skills.

### ENCOURAGE

**Celebrate Small Wins:** Praise your child when they make progress with reading. This builds their confidence.

### MONITOR PROGRESS

**Stay in the Loop:** Find out how your school checks for reading problems and what they do to help. Look for notes and meeting requests from your child's teacher. Understand the reading support your child is receiving.

**Share What You See:** Tell teachers how your child feels about reading at home. Are they proud? Frustrated? Your insights help.

### ADVOCATE

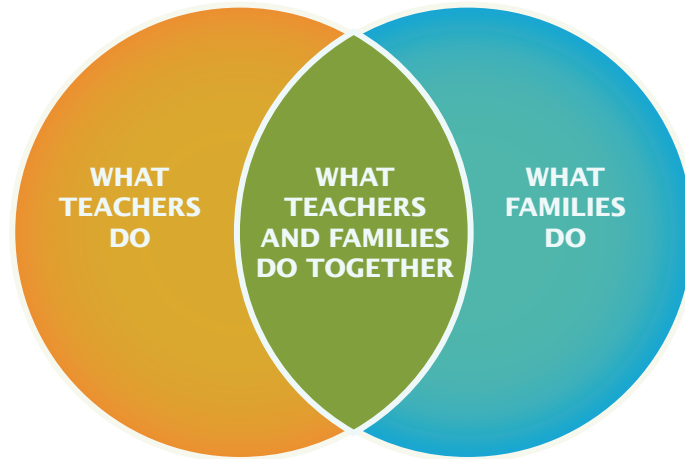
**Speak Up:** Ask how your child is doing. If you have concerns about your child's reading, talk with their teacher.

### MAKE A PLAN TOGETHER

**Get Extra Help:** If your child is still struggling, work with their teacher to make a plan for additional resources and specialized support.

# What to Expect This Year

The goal of the Alaska Reads Act is to help kids learn to read by finding and fixing reading problems early. Here's how teachers and families can work together to build strong readers.



## What teachers do

- Provide direct reading instruction
- Assess reading 3 times a year, kinder - 3rd grade
- Reach out to the family when a child needs support
- If a child has a reading plan, provide updates to the family 10 times a year



## What teachers and families do together

- Share observations & tips about how to best support your child
- If needed, make an Individual Reading Improvement Plan together
- Talk about advancing to the next grade together



## What families do

- Talk, read, play, and sing with your child
- Share what you see: What's working? What's hard for your child?
- If you have concerns, reach out to your child's teacher
- Keep an eye out for updates & activities to do at home

