



A Resource Guide for Families:
Helping Children Become Better Readers by
Promoting a Learning Community



THANK YOU

Created by: **Angelika Kropiowski**

AmeriCorps VISTA, Rochester City School District, Office of Parent Engagement and our Community Partners

Thank you to Burnette Woody, AmeriCorps VISTA '15-16, for laying the foundations for this resource guide during your year of service.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make this resource guide possible by contributing their time, knowledge, and genuine commitment to supporting our Rochester City School District students. Thank you!

Kathryn Yarlett

Nydia Padilla-Rodriguez

Jose Mora

Brenna Farrell-Geise

Eva Thomas

Sarah Lydon

RCSD Office of Parent Engagement

Claire Sobraske, AmeriCorps VISTA '16-17

Hannah Canale, AmeriCorps VISTA '16-17

Discovery Charter School Family Association, Parent Liaison

A Note to Families:

This Resource Guide is dedicated to all parents and family members involved and responsible for a child's education.

We hope you use this guide to discover what reading and learning opportunities exist within the Rochester Community. Most importantly, we hope you discover ***you have the tools you need at home!***

Learning happens anytime and anywhere, and is not restricted to the classroom. It happens at home from the teacher your child spends the most time with - you!

Whether your young children are learning to read, or older children are reading to learn, **no matter where your children are, you can meet them where they are and guide them toward learning and success.**



“Education is more than acquiring the skills of reading and writing. Education is what enables individuals [...] to perceive and act in their own interests – to value their own images and follow their own paths.”

-Dr. Susan Goodwin



- ✓ Reading at grade level by third grade is the most important **predictor of high school graduation**.
- ✓ Learning to read and reading to learn are **lifelong skills needed to reach graduation and beyond**.
- ✓ Literacy allows you to be **independent** and a **critical thinker**.

“Once you learn to read, you’ll be forever free.” -Frederick Douglass

Table of Contents

Rochester Public Libraries Information	6
Library Locations, Websites, Directions	7-12
Using the Library	13
Book Tips	14-15
Community Resources for Family Literacy	16
Free Little Libraries & Where to Get Books	17
Literacy Organizations	18-23
Summer Learning	24
Volunteer	25
Helpful Hints for Reading at Home	26-34
Reading to Learn: Resources for K-3	35
Online Resources	36-40
Apps	41-46
Reading to Learn: Resources for Grades 4-12	47
School Supports	48
Tips	49
Online Resources	50
Scholarships	51

Library Information: Location, Hours, & Resources



Check out what's going on at the library!

[Need directions? Click here](#)



[Maplewood Community Library](#)
Dewey Avenue



[Lincoln Branch Library](#)
Joseph Avenue



[Charlotte Branch Library](#)
Lake Avenue



[Lyell Branch Library](#)
Lyell Avenue



[Central Library of Rochester](#)
South Avenue



[Sully Branch Library](#)
Webster Avenue



[Phillis Wheatley Community Library](#)
Dr. Samuel McCree Way



[Arnett Branch Library](#)
Arnett Boulevard



[Frederick Douglass Library](#)
South Avenue



[Monroe Branch Library](#)
Monroe Avenue



[Winton Branch Library](#)
Winton Road North

Rochester Public Libraries

Central Library of Rochester

115 South Avenue
Rochester, NY 14604
(585) 428-7300

Charlotte Branch Library

3557 Lake Avenue
Rochester, NY 14612
(585) 428-8216

Lincoln Branch Library

851 Joseph Avenue
Rochester, NY 14621
(585) 428-8210

Maplewood Community Library

1111 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, NY 14613
(585) 428-8220

Phyllis Wheatley Community Library

33 Dr. Samuel McCree Way
Rochester, NY 14608
(585) 428-8212

Winton Branch Library

611 Winton Road North
Rochester, NY 14609
(585) 428-8204

Arnett Branch Library

310 Arnett Boulevard
Rochester, NY 14619
(585) 428-8214

Frederick Douglass Library (formerly known as Highland)

971 South Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620
(585) 428-8206

Lyell Branch Library

956 Lyell Avenue
Rochester, NY 14606
(585) 428-8218

Monroe Branch Library

809 Monroe Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 428-8202

Sully Branch Library

530 Webster Avenue
Rochester, NY 14609
(585) 428-8208

For Adults: at Rochester Public Libraries



Rochester Public Library services include **FREE**:

- **Computer access and WiFi.** Don't have a library card? Guest passes available
- [Computer classes](#)
- [Job Seeking](#) help and information
- [Community Resources](#) information

Contact the Central Library or your branch library to get started!

For Teens: Teen Central and imagineYOU at the Central Library of Rochester

Teen Central offers:

- Computer workstations for teens
- Magazines, books, games, graphic novels, and more
- Teen-centered programming and special events

imagineYOU is a digital media lab created by teen leaders where:

- Teens express themselves with creative technologies
- Library staff and youth mentors lead workshops and one-on-one work sessions
- Teens build skills and create digital projects such as songs, videos, photography, podcasts

Location: 2nd floor, Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building



For Kids: Children's Center at the Central Library of Rochester

The **Children's Center** includes fiction and non-fiction materials in all subject areas for children from infancy through sixth grade:

- Cardboard books for toddlers
- Easy reading books for beginning readers
- Picture books for a variety of ages
- Novels and informational books for elementary age children
- Books in multiple languages
- Audio tapes and CDs, book/cassette and book/CD sets

Materials for **adults** include:

- Storytelling (how-to-books)
- Selected parenting books



Location: 2nd floor, Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building

Learn to Play and Play to Learn at the Lincoln Toy Library



5,000 toys for children ages 0-9

Toys are organized by category: School Play, Creative Play, Pretend Play, Game Play, Sensory Play, Physical Play, and Infant/Toddler Play

Check out up to nine items at a time

Don't worry: all toys are cleaned before being re-shelved!

Alphabet, math and science toys	SCHOOL PLAY JUEGOS ESCOLAR	For exploring letters, words, numbers and nature
Building blocks, design toys and musical instruments	CREATIVE PLAY JUEGOS CREATIVO	For constructing, designing and making music
Cars, trucks, farm animals, dolls, puppet theaters and kitchen sets	PRETEND PLAY JUEGOS DE APRENTAR	For imaginary expression and role playing
First games, strategy games, family games	GAME PLAY JUEGOS DE DIVERSION	For problem solving and social skills
Marble runs, pegboards, sequence beads, puzzles	SENSORY PLAY JUEGOS DE SENSIBILIDAD	For sorting, matching and exploring
Riding toys, slides, balance beams and hula hoops	PHYSICAL PLAY JUEGOS DE EJERCICIO	For large muscle and outside play
Music boxes, stacking toys and activity gyms	INFANT TODDLER PLAY JUEGOS DE INFANTES	For stimulating interactive play

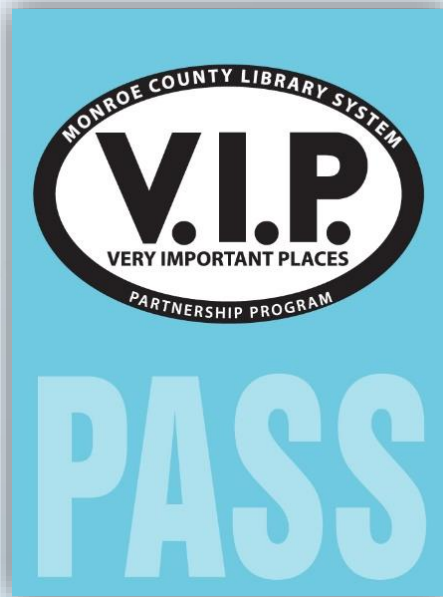


Using the Library

A **library card** lets you borrow **books, CDs, DVDs**, and a **V.I.P. Pass!** Learn how you can [sign up today!](#)

If your card is **lost or stolen**, report it by calling 428-8180 or your [neighborhood library](#).

The Rochester Public City Libraries do not charge late fines on items for Children and Teens!



[Click](#) for information about V.I.P. discount admission for museums, galleries, and more!

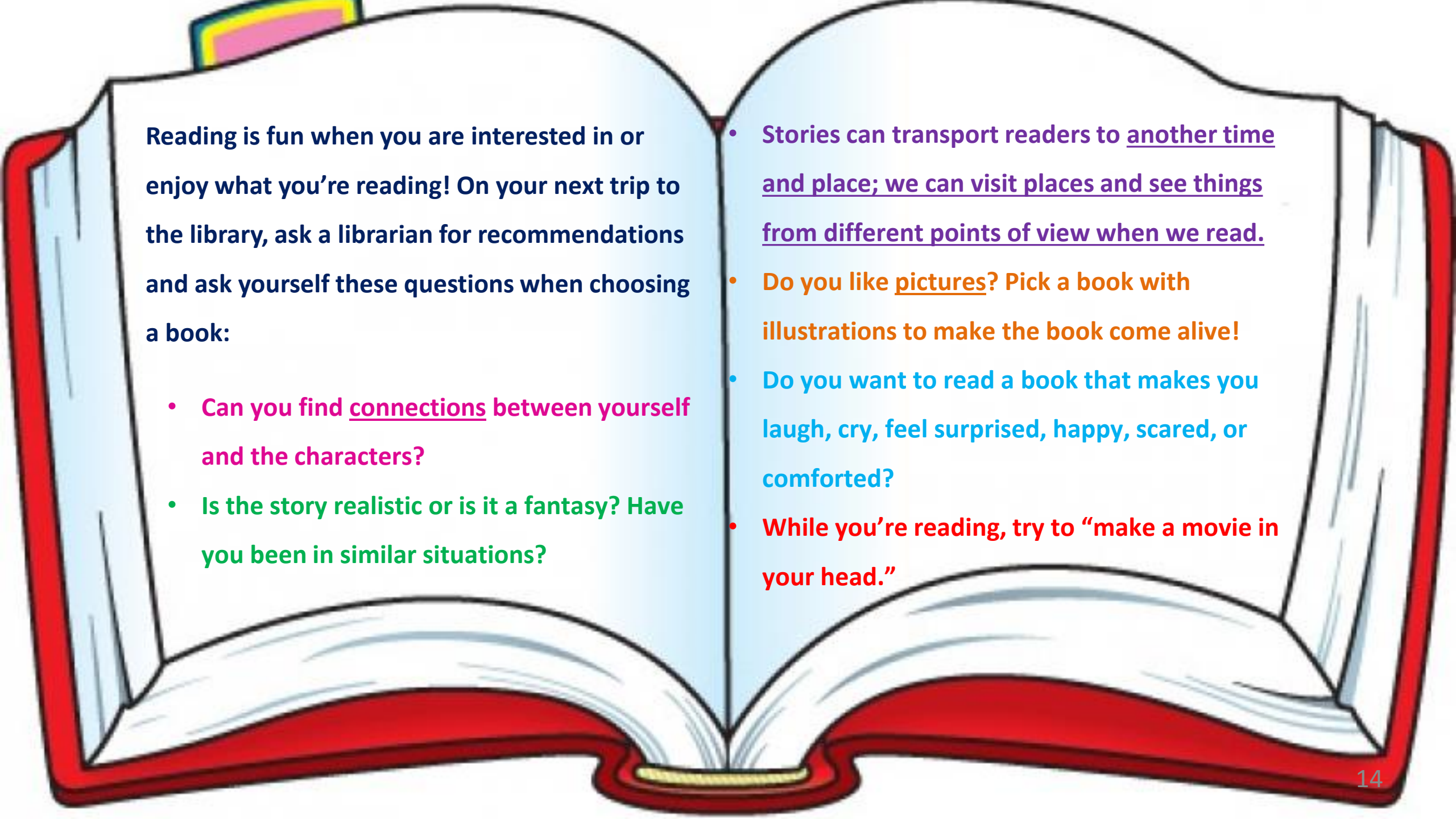
Check out the [Braille and Audio Reading Download \(BARD\)](#) app to listen to books!



Anyone can use the library! You do not need a library card to access:

Computers
TASC classes
ELL classes
Citizenship classes
Programs for children and adults
And more!

Find out what's going on in your library by signing up for a [weekly electronic newsletter!](#)

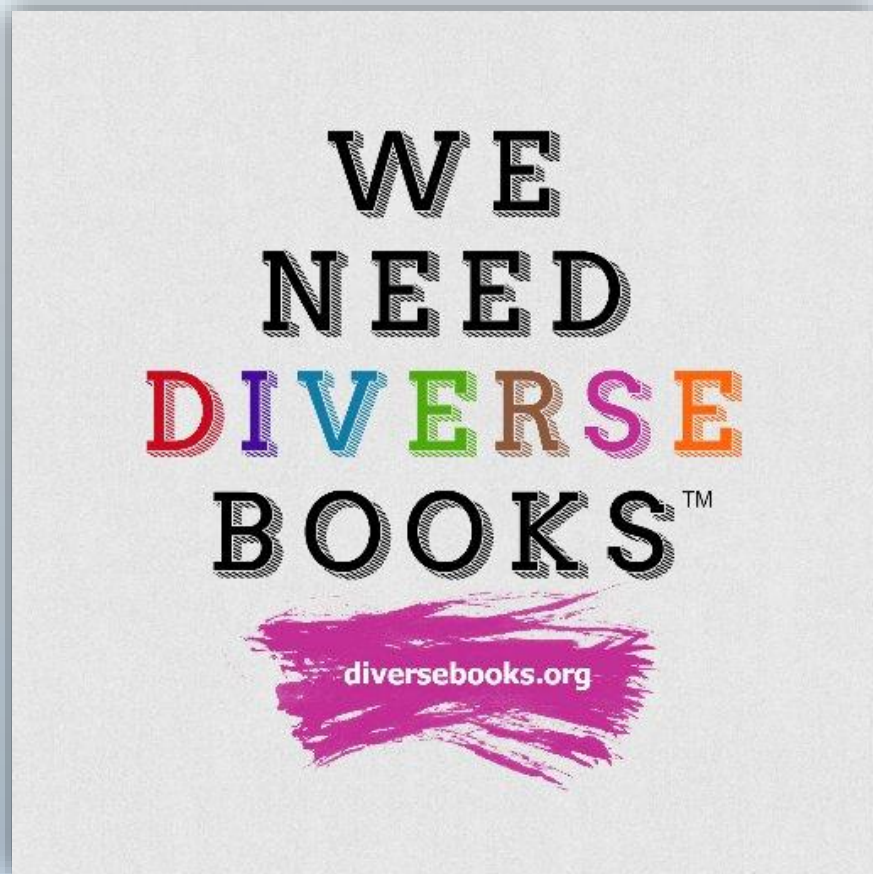


Reading is fun when you are interested in or enjoy what you're reading! On your next trip to the library, ask a librarian for recommendations and ask yourself these questions when choosing a book:

- Can you find connections between yourself and the characters?
- Is the story realistic or is it a fantasy? Have you been in similar situations?

- Stories can transport readers to another time and place; we can visit places and see things from different points of view when we read.
- Do you like pictures? Pick a book with illustrations to make the book come alive!
- Do you want to read a book that makes you laugh, cry, feel surprised, happy, scared, or comforted?
- While you're reading, try to "make a movie in your head."

Read to Connect and Discover



Librarian Rudine Sims Bishop believes books can provide **mirrors** for children to see themselves and their culture reflected back in the pages. Books can also give children access or a “**window**” into other people’s experiences.

[We Need Diverse Books](#) has **African**, **Latino**, **multicultural**, **LGBTQ+**, and **disability**-themed books, blogs, and more! Once you find books you like, check them out at your branch library.

Community Resources For Family Literacy



Build your own library with **Little Free Libraries**



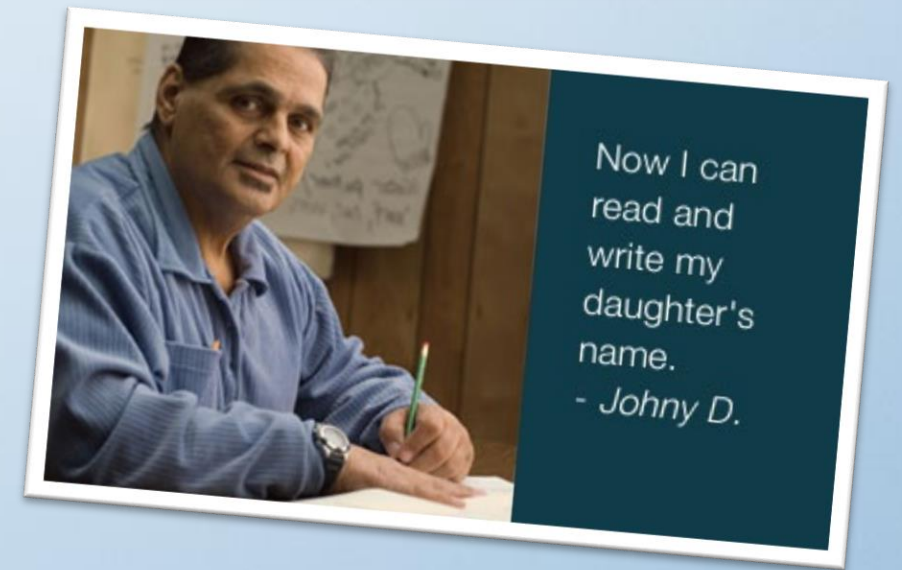
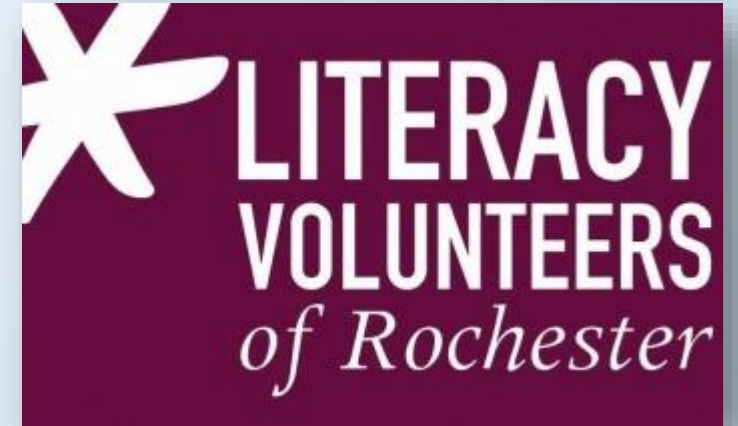
- Little Free Libraries are wooden boxes filled with books throughout the city, [find one near you!](#)
- It's a public book exchange: **anyone can add books** to the library, and **take books home to keep – for FREE!**
- Work with your child's school to start a little free library on-site!
- Want to purchase books for little or no cost? Check out Goodwill, yard sales, sales at places of worship, libraries, festivals, used book stores, and clearance sections!

Literacy Volunteers of Rochester

The [Literacy Volunteers of Rochester](#) help people fully participate in their community as citizens, parents, consumers and workers.

FREE programs and services include:

- **One-to-One Tutoring:** Reading, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), math, and more!
- **Small Group Instruction:** for adults working towards TASC and vocational training programs
- **Digital Literacy:** Learn basic computer skills, how to use Microsoft or Google products, create or update your resume, apply for jobs or benefits online and address other computer-based needs
- **Family Literacy:** Workshops provide parents with tools to support their children age 3-7 education, and activities to promote parent/child learning
- **Training** and support for tutors and volunteers



Drop in to check it out!

Contact the RCSD Office of Parent Engagement if you need bus passes for transportation needs

Writers & Books



Since 1974 [Writers & Books](#) has been promoting reading and writing as lifelong activities for people of all ages.

Programs include:

- **writing classes** and workshops for youth and adults
- **readings and talks** by writers
- **residency programs** at their rural retreat center
- an annual **Regional Playwriting Competition** held in collaboration with Geva Theater Center
- an annual **city-wide reading program** “Rochester Reads”
- **internships** for high school and college students

Drop in to check it out!



Writers and Books – for Teens



Canvas Lit

An **online literary magazine** written **for and by teenagers**. In an age of social media, Canvas Lit aims to reach, encourage, and educate teens in Rochester and beyond about the art of poetry and prose via a **youth-based** magazine published completely online. Contact: canvaslitboard@gmail.com



Poetry promotes creativity and it helps English Language Learners! [Find out why!](#)

[Breathing Fire: Teen Poetry Slam](#)

Teen poetry slam open to **high school students** ages 13-19. Each slam features a **poetry workshop, open mic, and slam**. A final team will be selected and sent to participate in [Brave New Voices](#), a national youth slam competition.

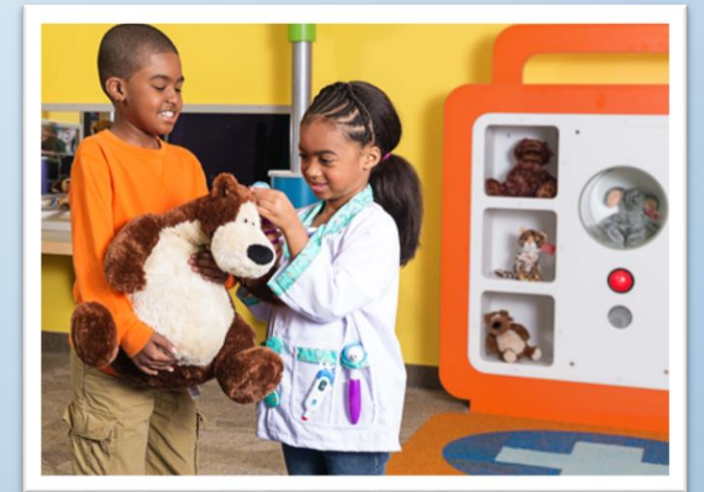
The Strong Museum

the **strong**
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF **PLAY**

Interactive, play centered exhibits and activities

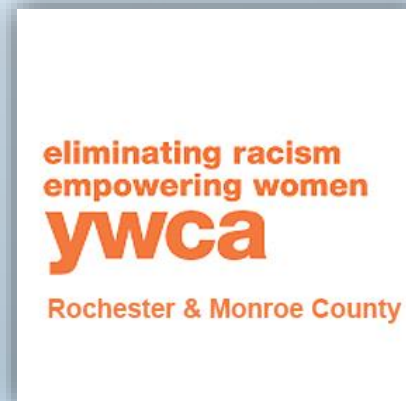
The world's largest collection of toys and games!

Family friendly play and learning for all ages!



For directions and more information [click here!](#)

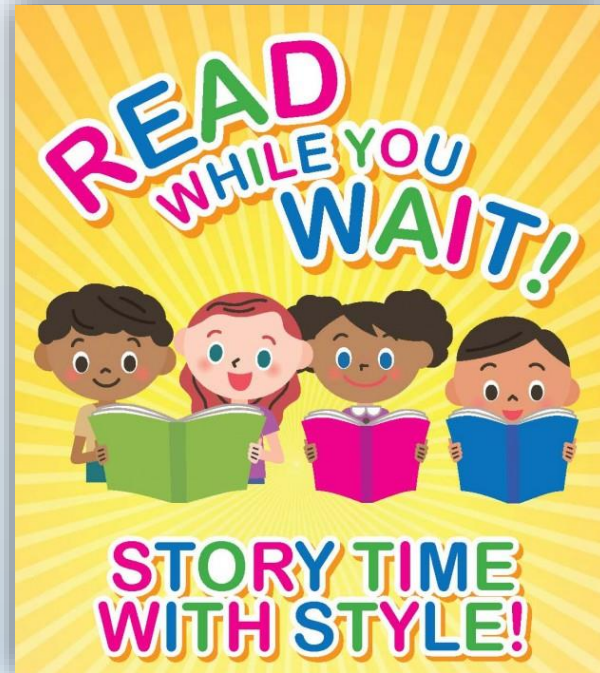
Organizations and Programs



Many local organizations support youth, adult, family, learning and wellbeing through their programs.

See what programs can support your family's needs by clicking on the icons.

Story Time with Style!



It's a perfect time to read!



Many salons and barbershops in the city have children's books.

Set a good example by reading while *you* wait, and encourage children to pick up a book, or read aloud to them!

Find Story Time with Style locations [near you](#)



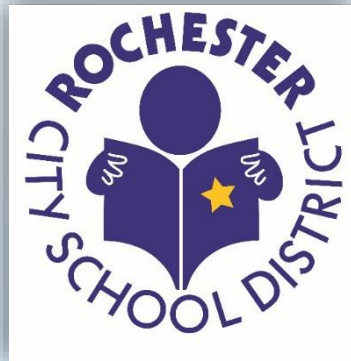
Beat Summer Learning Loss!

Did you know?

Children lose **two months** of grade-level achievement in math and reading during the summer months

Support your child's social, emotional, and intellectual growth year round!

Click on the icons below to see available programs



-summer school
-summer reading



Enroll your child in PreK or K-8 programs of your choice



-after school programs
-summer camp

Become a Volunteer

Volunteering in the Rochester School District makes an impact on student lives and builds community by creating a culture of lending, helping, and support.



Steps to Become a Volunteer

1. Call the Volunteer Coordinator at (585) 262-8489
2. Based on your interests, skills, and expertise, decide which type of volunteer you would like to be
3. *Student Volunteers (18 and under):*
If you want to volunteer in another school, complete the Student Application available [here](#)

Adult Volunteers (18 and over):

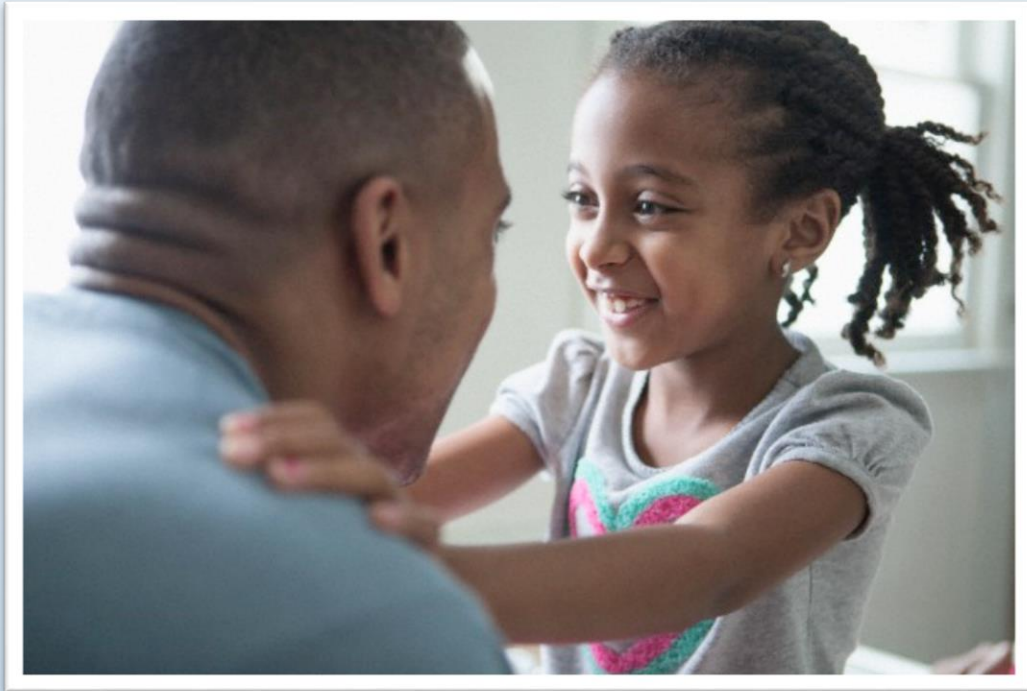
Complete the Volunteer Application available [here](#) or [print](#) a copy and mail it to:

Volunteer Coordinator
Rochester City School District
131 W. Broad Street, Rochester, NY 14614

Helpful Hints for Reading at Home



Talk with your child



You are your child's greatest teacher!

When you speak with your child, you teach them about **self-expression** and expose them to new vocabulary and sentence structures. These are important tools for **building vocabulary and comprehension skills**, which are needed to be successful readers and writers. Most importantly, it helps you **bond, connect and communicate!**

Why does talking to your child matter?

Hearing fewer words throughout infancy and toddler years can put children at a disadvantage as they enter preschool, and this gap has lasting effects throughout adulthood. Build your child's brain by encouraging vocabulary development from infancy: speak to them often, use gestures, facial expressions, and objects to help children learn new words and their meanings.

Encourage Storytelling!

- ✓ Helps strengthen **comprehension** skills
- ✓ Uses a wide range of **vocabulary**, descriptive words, imagery
- ✓ **Responds** to kids with **who, what, where, when, why** questions
- ✓ Fosters **imagination** and **creativity**
- ✓ Uses **digital literacy skills** by recording and using online storytelling tools
- ✓ Builds **self esteem** – anyone can do it!
- ✓ **Celebrates oral culture** and traditions
- ✓ Allows you to **connect** and **share** lifelong lessons!



Want to share your skills and have the chance to win prizes? Connect with your school librarian to participate in the [RCSD Annual Storytelling Festival](#)

How to read with your child

- ✓ Look at the cover and flip through to look at pictures. Ask them to **predict** about what will happen in the book.
- ✓ Check for **understanding** and make connections.
 - ✓ **Ex: Say to your child:** “The character threw their hands in the air. Now, why do you think he/she did that? How was the character feeling? Could he/she be mad? *What do you do when you’re feeling mad?*”



- ✓ Ask **who, what, where, when, why, and how** questions.
- ✓ Create **visualizations**; what do you “see” or “imagine”?
- ✓ At the end of a section, ask your child to **summarize/retell** what you’ve read to get the big picture.
- ✓ **Tip:** Our brains respond differently when we are read to and when we read to ourselves. Build your brain power by **listening to someone read out loud and by reading to yourself!**

Fun ways to read

Turn on TV captions!

This is a great way to “sneak” in reading as you listen. Follow along as you listen.



Is your favorite movie based on a book?

- ✓ Read the book, then watch the movie
- ✓ Discuss which version you preferred and why
- ✓ Compare and contrast how the movie was different than the book (example: certain setting, characters, events, themes?)

Take note! Children can:

- ✓ Draw pictures and write captions for what they drew
- ✓ Write grocery lists
- ✓ Listen and write down lyrics from their favorite songs

Listen to audio books!

- ✓ Available at libraries, online, and for download
- ✓ You can read along or just listen, anytime, anywhere!
- ✓ Narrated stories helps your child learn how to speak and read quickly, accurately, and with expression



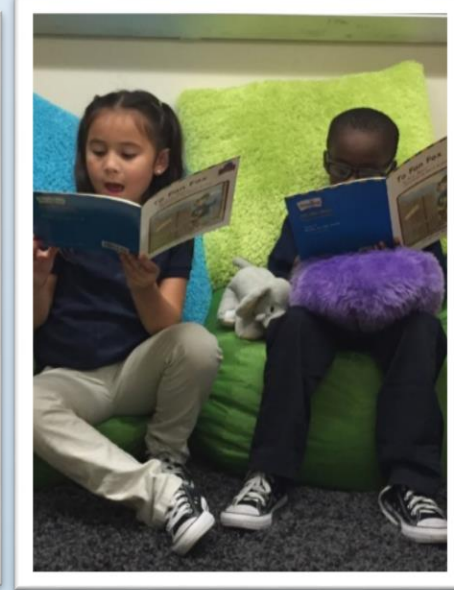
Make your home a place for learning

Cozy corners make children feel comfortable and relaxed, which helps quiet their minds and focus on reading.

Create your comfy corner in a **well-lit area** so your child can see clearly.

Pillows, blankets, **comfy bean bag chairs**, **mats**, **couch cushions**, **stuffed animals**, and **a little imagination** are all you need!

Check out these RCSD reading teachers' classroom cozy corners!



Get to Know the Fab Five

The Fab Five are the skills that young children learn to become successful readers. Practice them at home!



Phonemic Awareness – hearing, identifying and manipulating sounds



Phonics – blending letter sounds together to make words & spelling patterns



Vocabulary – learning the meaning of words

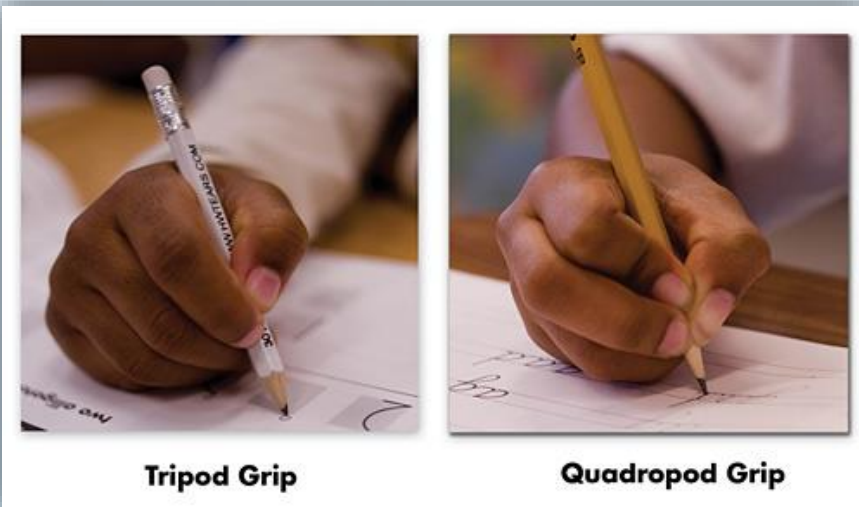


Fluency - reading with accuracy, rate, and expression



Comprehension – understanding what was just read

Practice Handwriting



Tripod Grip

Quadropod Grip

- ✓ Make writing easier with the proper pencil grip. When properly holding a pencil or pen, your three fingers touch, which promotes brain activity.
- ✓ Have your child read aloud as they write from left to right. Eyes following hand movement and letters reinforces proper handwriting and reading skills.
- ✓ Tip: Stock up on thin markers, pencils, and crayons, or even short broken crayons, for your child to use. They are easier to properly hold!

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

read well by the end of third grade

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

pass important courses

HIGH SCHOOLERS

stay on track for graduation

COLLEGE STUDENTS

earn their degrees

WORKERS

succeed in their jobs

Connect with your Parent Liaison or Home School Assistant if you need help getting your child to school

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



Learning to Read:
On-line Resources for
Elementary Students



For Parents and Kids: Safety First

Use these safety tips as guidelines when online

- ✓ I will talk with my parents so we can set up **rules** for going online.
- ✓ I will not give out **personal information** such as my address, telephone number, my parents' work address or telephone number, school name or location, or passwords without my parents' permission.
- ✓ I will tell my parents or an adult if I see something that makes me uncomfortable.
- ✓ I will never agree to meet anyone I have met online, or send anyone my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
- ✓ I will be a **good online citizen** and will not do anything that hurts other people or is against the law.



For Parents: Recommended Online Resources

Click on
the icons
to visit
the
websites

Information on child
development and parenting



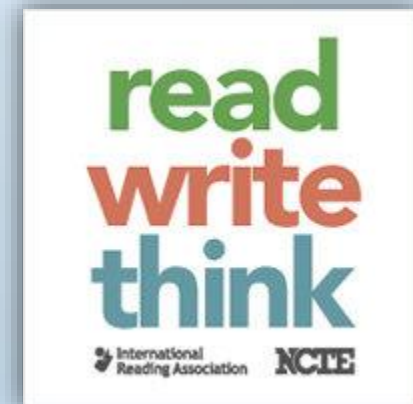
Articles and tips for literacy



Website for family friendly
events around Rochester



Raz-Kids



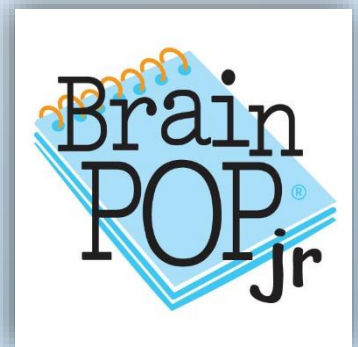
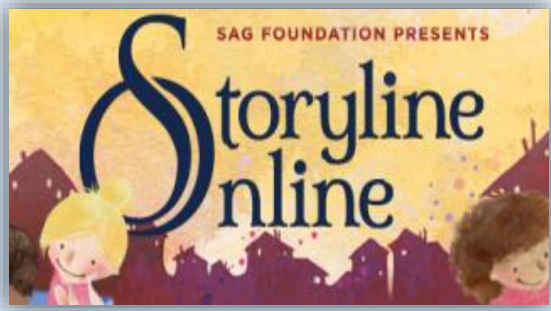
For Kids: Recommended Online Resources

Click on the icons to visit the websites

Read and listen as stories are read out loud

Literacy games

Homework help and games



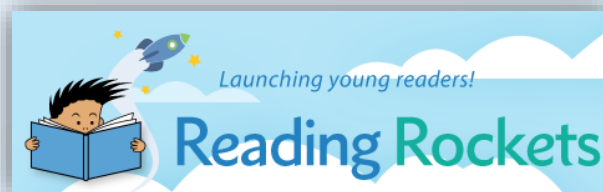
Click on
the icons
to visit
the
websites

For Bilingual/Multilingual Families: Recommended Online Resources

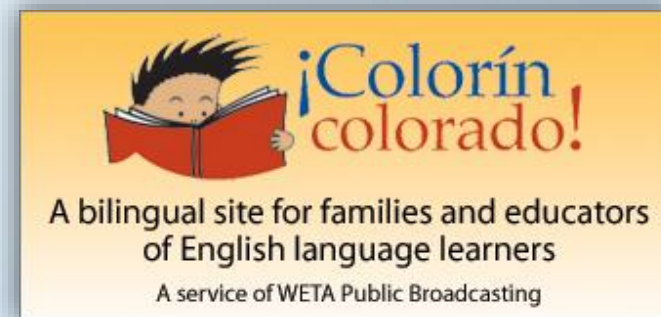
Information related to
parenting and children's
growth



Literacy resources in English



Literacy resources in Spanish



Find **materials in your language**
under the **health**, **culture**, **family**,
and **financial literacy** tabs



Click on the icons to visit the websites

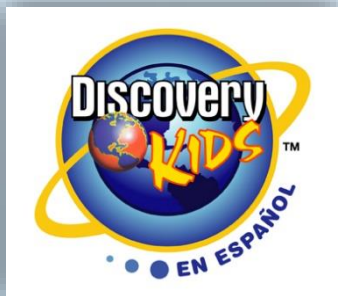
For Bilingual and English Language Learners Kids: Recommended Online Resources

For bilinguals:

Fun, engaging games build upon their native Spanish language knowledge.

For English Language Learners

Games and activities give exposure to oral and written English, providing practical English skills needed for personal and academic success.



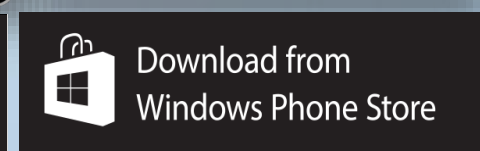
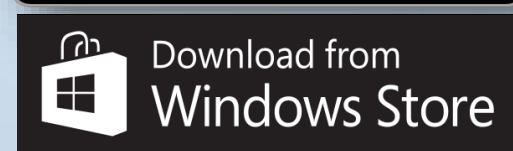
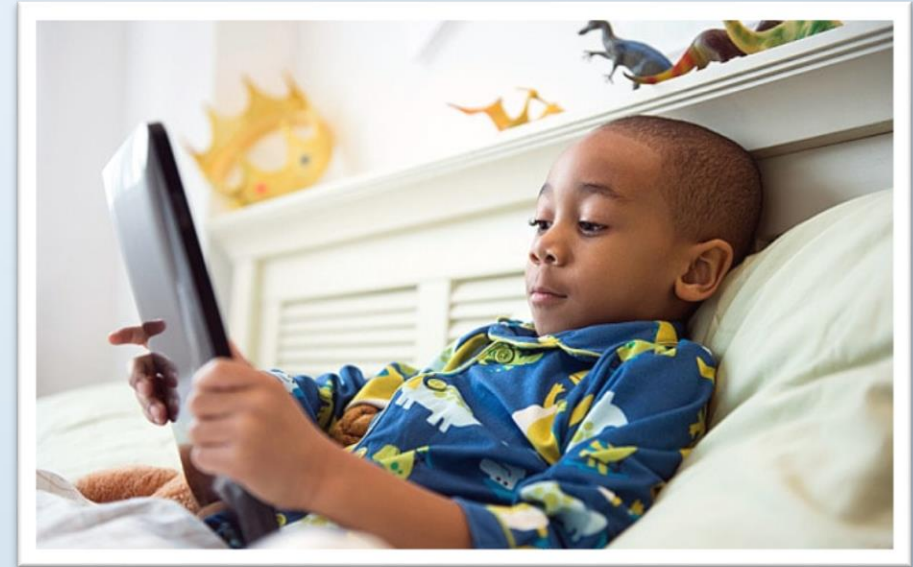
Go to the "Narration" tab at the top of the screen and then click on "Narration Languages" to hear stories in over 30 different languages

Educational Apps for Download

Interactive and fun:
Learn anytime, anywhere!

Follow up with talk time. After completing activities on a smartphone or tablet, have your child repeat the process and explain what they did. This reinforces the skills they learned and allows you to be part of their learning.

*Make sure to limit screen time,
especially for younger kids!*

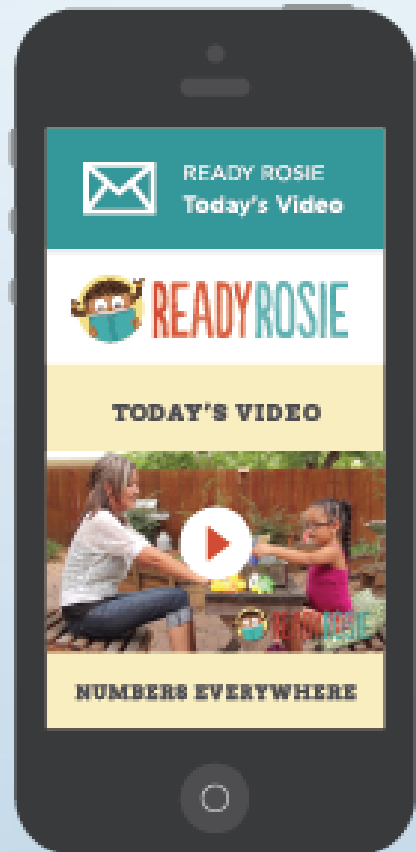




All it takes is 2 minutes a day.

[Register for free online](#)
or download the app

Need help?
Contact your school or local library



HERE'S HOW:

- 1 Watch a quick daily video.
- 2 Do the interactive activity.
- 3 Learn: both child and adult grow.

Quick & easy daily activities to do with your child.
Every activity modeled on video in **English & Spanish.**
Delivered to you via email and/or text message.

Read 1,000 Books **Before Kindergarten** to Support Your Child's Reading Skills!

- Reread your child's favorite books several times!
- Encourage your child to talk about their favorite character in the story and tell what they like about them.
- Select books with your child to read
- Borrow books from the lending library in your child's prekindergarten classroom.
- Ask your child to retell the story after you read it to them using pictures to guide them.



The Order In Which Your Child Learns Kindergarten Skills

- Hearing and speaking sounds; how they connect to letters

- **CVC**: Consonant, Short Vowel, Consonant
 - Examples: cat, dog, pit

- **CCVC**: Consonant, Consonant, Vowel, Consonant
 - Examples: stop, drip, shop

- **(Diagraph) CVCC**: Consonant, Vowel, Consonant, Consonant
 - Examples: post, push, both

- **(Tricky Words) CCVCC**: Consonant, Consonant, Vowel, Consonant, Consonant

- Handwriting

					
Sound Seeker	LetterSchool	123 Color HD: Talking Coloring Book *	Junior Bingo	LetterSchool	ABC Letter, Numbers, Shapes and Colors with Mathaliens
					
Lakeshore Letter of the Day	Sound Sorting Beginning Sounds	ABC Phonics Rhyming Bee	Word Wagon	Word Bingo	Freefall Spelling
					
Reading Comp1	Sentence Builder	Book Creator	Bob Books	Sentence Maker	
					
	Preschool University	Teach Me Kindergarten	LetterSchool Kindergarten		

The Order In Which Your Child Learns **First Grade Skills**

- Review CVC, CCVC, CVCC, CCVCC

- **CVCe**: silent “e” makes the vowel say its name
 - Example: came, same

- Spellings of /oo/ /oo/ /ou/ /oi/ /aw/

- R-controlled vowel sounds /er/ /ar/ /or/, past tense endings, two-syllable words

- Spelling alternatives for alternate consonant sounds, tricky words

- Handwriting



Word Games for Kids-Futaba



Word Wagon



Word Bingo



Word Wall HD



Phonics Tic-Tac-Toe



Junior Bingo



Freefall Spelling



Word Wizard
Talking Movable Alphabet & Spelling Tests for Kids



Blend Seeker



Teach Me First Grade



Preschool University



Montessori Crosswords



Phonics Advanced, 1st Grade



Reading Comp1



Sentence Maker



Bob Books



Book Creator



Toontastic



Sentence Builder



BrainPOP Jr. Movie of the Week

The Order In Which Your Child Learns **Second Grade Skills**

- Review basic spellings
- Spelling alternatives
- Handwriting



Word Bingo



Phonics
Tic-Tac-Toe



Word Wall
HD



Word Games
for Kids-
Futaba



Word Wagon



Blend Seeker



Star Speller



I speak
word



Brain Pop Featured
Movie



Opposite
Ocean
(Antonyms)



Book Creator



Toontastic



Reading
Comp1

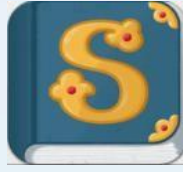


Reading
Comp2

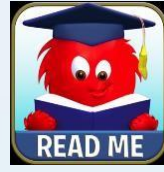
Great Apps to Consider



iStoryBooks



Storybook Reading



Read Me Stories: Learn to Read



Skybrary



Kids A-Z



Starfall FREE



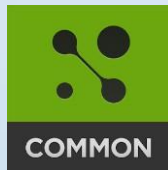
PBS KIDS Video



Daniel Tiger's Grr-ific Feelings



myHomework Student Planner



Common Core



Community Helpers Play & Learn



Daniel Tiger's For Parents

Play educational apps to explore, learn, and discover!

Match your child's interests with the many fun and interactive apps that promote learning and literacy.

You can find even more **FREE**, child friendly, and educational apps at [PBS Kids](https://www.pbskids.org).

Reading to Learn:
On-line Resources for
Secondary Students



Stay Connected

- ✓ Work with your school [Counselor](#) to help plan your child's path to graduation.
- ✓ Use [Parent CONNECTxp](#) for student information: access grades, attendance, assignments and more.
- ✓ Support your child's success by building upon your own skills with [Parent University](#).
- ✓ Be a voice for your child by joining [Parent Advisory Council](#), [Bilingual Education Council](#), or [Men of Action Network](#).



Encouraging skills at home

Middle and high school **critical thinkers and problem solvers can:**

- ✓ **understand** information from different sources
- ✓ **make connections** about complex ideas
- ✓ **evaluate** statements from different perspectives
- ✓ **research**
- ✓ **analyze**
- ✓ make their **own opinions**
- ✓ **communicate clearly**

Critical thinking takes practice!

- ✓ Read **non-fiction**
- ✓ Support **creative thinking**. Look at the bigger picture.
- ✓ Use **logical arguments** to support opinions.
- ✓ **Respond** with **who, what, where, when, why questions**.
- ✓ Listen to someone speaking. What are their main points? Are they trying to convince you of something? How?



Online Resources

Click on
the icons
to visit
the
websites



Work with your child to obtain a user name and password
from their school

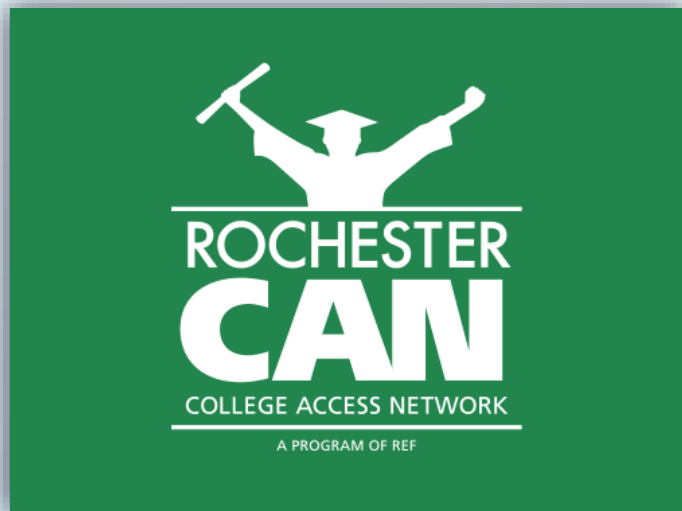
Scholarships

Considering college after graduation? **Apply for scholarships!**

Need help with applications for scholarships or financial aid?

Don't hesitate to **ask your counselor, school staff, or RochesterCAN for help.**

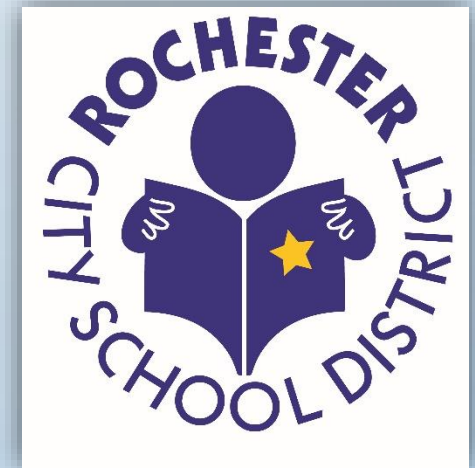
Click on
the icons
to visit
the
websites



RochesterCAN provides information, resources, and support for you to go to college



Check out "Other Resources" for information on local and national scholarships as well as tools for college preparation.



Scholarship search engine

