

December 2014

## COUNTDOWN TO PARCC FOR FAMILIES

### SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN READING AND WRITING

English language arts (ELA) standards identify what students need to know in reading and writing at each grade level and can be found at <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA>. While teachers introduce and teach concepts in school, students should also practice reading and writing at home. See <http://literacynewmexico.org> for parent resources to assist students with improving literacy.

#### HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR KIDS IMPROVE LANGUAGE SKILLS?

- **Provide a quiet place and ample time for doing homework.**
- **Increase conversation time.** Ask your child questions about school, friends, activities, and interests. Encourage your child to offer details by providing the same information about your interests and activities.
- **Ask your child to teach you what s/he's learning in school.** Ask questions and encourage detailed responses.
- **Write silly and affectionate notes to your child and hide them where he/she will find them.** Encourage your child to write and hide responses for you and other family members!



#### HOME ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE READING SKILLS

- **Have your child read to you or others!** They can read stories, recipes, grocery lists, or instructions.
- **Set an example!** Children who see adults reading at home are more likely to be proficient readers.
- **Make it meaningful!** Talk to your child's teachers to determine his/her academic strengths and interests. Read books, magazines, and articles in those subjects with your child.
- **Play The Alphabet Game (and other word games) to expand vocabulary!** Choose a letter and a theme. To begin, Player 1 offers a word in that theme that begins with "A." Next, Player 2 offers a B-word in that theme. For example, if the theme is fruit, player 1 might say, "A – apple." Then player B might say, "B – banana." Continue through the alphabet. Switch up the game to think of words that end, instead of start, with the letter. (This is a great game to play in the car!)
- **Take a day trip!** Visit the zoo, museums, or historical sites to increase exposure to new words.

#### HOME ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE WRITING SKILLS

- **Gift Idea!** Have your child write a story with pictures and a book cover. You can even add a biography and binding!
- **Holiday cards and thank you notes!** Ask your child to write holiday cards to friends and relatives, and thank you notes for gifts.
- **Publish an opinion!** Read a newspaper article together and then have your child write a response. Submit it to the "opinion" section of the local newspaper to see your child's words in print!

