

Although the primary responsibility for teaching children to read and write lies with schools, schools can provide resources that help support literacy development in the home as well. Although many school-led efforts to support literacy development in the home have not been found effective in research, some have. For example:

Beginning in infancy, enrolling children in the [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#) has been found to support early literacy development ([example study](#)).

In the preschool years, [a series of five workshops](#) with families on supporting literacy development has been found to support children's language and literacy development ([study](#)). (Although an author on this product, Nell Duke receives no royalties for the sale of this workshop series.)

Sending text messages to families of preschool-age children about ways they can support development at home has also been shown to foster literacy development ([study](#)), as through [Ready4K, now ParentPowered](#).

In the elementary grades, some book distribution programs for summer have been found effective. For example, in one program, for three years, beginning at the end of first or second grade, children each

selected 12 books that they would get to keep from a book fair. Children randomly assigned to receive the books had higher effects on the state reading assessment, particularly if they were economically disadvantaged ([study](#)).

In another program, children who had completed grades three, four, or five received eight books over the summer. Books were selected based on each child's interests and approximate reading level. In the group that gained the most in summer reading, a letter and a postcard for families to complete were mailed along with each book ([study](#)). Children were taught how to complete the postcard at the end of the school year, and families were asked to assist them in doing so, completing six items on the postcard before mailing it back. For more information, see [this article](#).

Book distribution programs during the school year as well as summer have also been found effective, such as the [Kids Read Now](#) program ([study](#)).

Many educational media for home use have been shown to have a positive impact on children's literacy development. For example, children whose families were randomly assigned to receive iPads with [Molly of Denali videos, games](#), and [family videos](#) showed greater growth than children whose families were randomly assigned to receive iPads without those resources ([study](#)).