

SRA Imagine It!

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

SRA/McGraw-Hill, a well-respected publisher of educational materials knows there is no one more important to you than your child. That's why we want to provide you with information and at-home tips so you can make sure your child is getting the best reading education possible.

You can make the difference in your child's education...SRA/McGraw-Hill is here to help!

Did You Know?

There are 22 states that have a textbook review or "adoption" process. A committee within the State's Department of Education reviews curriculum and provides school districts with a list of textbooks that meet state approval. Public schools then select among those textbooks which they would like to purchase for the coming year.

All remaining states are "open territory" meaning that each school district may choose the curriculum they would like use for the upcoming school year.

Regardless of where you are from, this decision is of great importance and therefore carefully researched by district leaders. As a parent, you too have an opportunity to share your opinions about how you would like your child to learn. Talk to someone at your school or district on how you can get involved and voice your opinion.

Learn about your state's curriculum selection process by visiting http://www.publishers.org/SchoolDiv/textBooks/textBk_01_Map.htm.

The ABCs of Reading

Our children's futures are determined by how well they learn to read. You can help your child succeed in the classroom and beyond by helping your child develop the reading skills they need.

Experts have identified five key elements of reading instruction to ensure students learn to read:

1. **Phonemic awareness:** The awareness of the sounds that make up spoken words
2. **Phonics instruction:** Teaches the relationship of the letters of written language and the individual sounds of spoken language
3. **Fluency:** The ability to read text accurately and quickly
4. **Vocabulary:** Knowledge of words and their meaning
5. **Text comprehension:** The ability to understand or get meaning from text

According to the National Institute for Literacy, this means that in Grades Pre-K–3, you should see teachers:

- **Teaching the sounds of language.** Teachers provide opportunities for children to practice with the sounds that make up words. Children learn to put sounds together to make words and to break words into their separate sounds.
- **Teaching the letters of the alphabet.** Teachers help children learn to recognize letter names and shapes.
- **Helping children learn and use new words.**
- **Reading to children every day.** Teachers read with expression and talk with children about what they are reading.

SRA/McGraw-Hill has a reading and language arts program that includes these elements and so much more! It's called *Imagine It!* because that's just what it does: using research-based and proven strategies, children learn to read and communicate in a way that will allow them to imagine a whole new world! If you'd like to learn more about *Imagine It!* just visit "At Home" section of <http://www.imagineitreading.com>.

Tips You Can Use

Wondering how you can best help your child learn to read? If your child is just beginning to learn about books, sounds, and letters, at home you can:

- Practice letter sounds by daily reading aloud stories, rhymes, poems, and songs.
- Play simple word games like: "How many words can you make up that sound like the word 'bat'?"
- Help your child take spoken words apart and put them together to make new words by changing the beginning or ending sounds.
- Practice the alphabet by pointing out letters whenever you see them and by reading alphabet books.

If your child is just beginning to read, at home you can:

- Point out the letter/sound relationships on labels, boxes, newspapers, magazines, signs, etc.
- Be patient and listen while your child reads to you.
- Ask questions about the story your child has read.

