

# LETTER TO CAREGIVERS



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**Dear Parent or Guardian,**

We know how important it is for caregivers and teachers to work together to give children the best start. Reading together at home is one of the most effective and important ways you can help your child. Children should be encouraged to read with an adult and read independently. This not only supports children's progression in reading but helps them build a love of reading for pleasure and for learning.

One supplemental tool that we use to help teach reading is the **STEP INTO READING®** series.

What is the **STEP INTO READING®** series?

**STEP INTO READING®** offers five steps to reading success and has more than 650 titles available in-print—there is something of interest for every level and every reader! Each step includes engaging stories and colorful art or photographs to give every child an enjoyable reading experience. The leveling system recognizes different developmental stages of emergent readers and is designed to deliver a successful reading experience at each step.

We use the **STEP INTO READING®** series to help children:

- Build comprehension**
- Develop fluency**
- Create phonemic awareness**
- Understand phonics**
- Grow vocabulary**

At home, you can use the **STEP INTO READING®** series to support your child in becoming an effective and confident reader, too.

I recommend you use the segmenting strategy when reading with your child. To do this, choose a few words from the text that your child may find tricky. To read the word, it is necessary to segment the word into its individual sounds.

**For example: "ran" / "r-a-n".**

Start by having your child listen for the first sound in a word; next try listening for the end sounds; and then the middle sounds (middle sounds are hardest to hear). Begin with simple three letters words (**example: tap or hot**), and build up from there.

With **STEP INTO READING®**, kids can step into history, step into magical worlds, step into a science lab, and start to build a love of reading for pleasure and reading for learning. We hope you enjoy these texts at home as much as we do in school!

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