

## What can I do to help if I am told that my child is having difficulty learning to read?

Question 23 from Helping Your Child Become a Reader  
(Scanlon, Anderson, Barnes, Morse, & Yurkewecz-Stellato, 2024<sup>1</sup>)

Many children who have difficulty early on do not experience difficulties over the long term. However, many do need extra instructional support and extra reading and writing practice to overcome their early difficulties. To try to ensure that early difficulties do not become long-term difficulties, it is important to make sure that children receive extra help with reading in school. Additionally, it is helpful to provide children with lots of non-stressful opportunities to practice reading at home.

Listening to children read and discussing what is read with them are extremely important ways to support their development. Also, depending on what children already know – which determines what they are ready to learn – there are a variety of game-like practice activities that can help them learn such things as the names and sounds of letters and how to read and write the words that occur most frequently in written language (see “Playful Practice Activities” in Question 14).



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<sup>1</sup> The complete 23 question booklet can be accessed at: [eltep.org/isa-parent-booklet](http://eltep.org/isa-parent-booklet)  
All individual questions and the complete booklet can be shared for non-commercial purposes.