



Let's Read!

About the Taiguaqta Initiative

The Taiguaqta Initiative is a new early literacy program launched by Mayor Josiah Aullaqsruaq Patkotak in partnership with the North Slope Borough School District. Designed for children in kindergarten through third grade, the initiative supports early reading during a critical stage of development by providing students with culturally relevant, age-appropriate books that reflect Iñupiaq values, language, and lived experiences.

Through quarterly book distribution and family-friendly reading supports, the Taiguaqta Initiative encourages reading at home and strengthens family involvement in literacy. By grounding early learning in culture and community, the initiative supports the long-term goal of improving reading efficiency at or above grade level by the end of third grade – helping set a strong foundation for lifelong learning and success.

Turn the page for tips on reading with your child!



Reading Together: Tips for Families with Children Ages 3-8

Reading with your child is one of the most powerful ways to support their learning and build strong family bonds. Even 10-15 minutes a day can make a big difference!

Here are a few simple tips to help make reading time fun and meaningful at home:

1. Make it a routine.

Try to read together at the same time each day: before bedtime, after school, or right after dinner. Children thrive with consistency!

2. Let them choose.

Let your child pick books that interest them, even if they want to read the same story over and over. Repetition helps them learn new words and feel confident.



3. Talk about the story.

Pause while reading to ask:

- “What do you think will happen next?”
- “How do you think that character feels?”
- “Does this remind you of something we’ve seen or done?”

These little questions help your child think deeply and connect stories to their own life.

4. Read in your language.

It’s okay to read in English, Iñupiaq, or whatever language you primarily speak at home! Sharing stories in the language your child hears at home helps them grow stronger in different languages.

5. Let them help.

Ask your child to turn the pages, find letters or words they know, or help tell the story in their own words.

6. Make it cozy and fun.

Snuggle up, turn off the TV, and make reading special. You can even act out voices or add sound effects – anything to make it fun!



Remember: You don’t have to be a teacher, just a loving reader.

Your voice, your time, and your encouragement are the greatest gifts you can give your child as they learn to read.