

Your Family's Guide to Boosting Reading Skills with Newsela

This guide is designed to provide simple, powerful ways to support your child's reading progress with Newsela. Our suggestions are focused on shared activities and practical goals that you can achieve together, making learning fun!

1

Building Background Knowledge: Connecting Reading to Life

These suggestions help your child link what they read in Newsela to their school subjects and the world around them, making the articles feel more important and easier to understand.

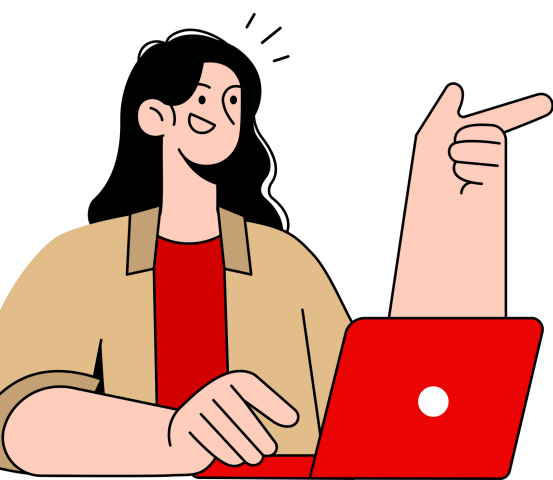
Activity	How to Apply it with Newsela
Bridge Classroom and Home Reading	Connect articles to current topics. - Ask your child, "What was the coolest thing you learned in school today?" - Then, look for a Newsela article or story about that topic. This helps them see that learning is ongoing!
Search for Connecting Stories	Find articles that reflect diverse identities and histories. - Use Newsela's search function to find topics related to your family's culture, favorite holidays, or shared interests. - This helps make the content personally important.
Find Local Connections to Text	Relate the topic to your neighborhood. - Search Newsela for articles related to your town, state, or regional issues. - Talk about how a big, global topic relates to what you see happening in your own community.
Connect Content to Community Stories	Look at the article through a local lens. - Discuss how the events or topics in the article (like local traditions or music) look in your specific community. - Ask, "How is this story the same or different where we live?"

2

Boosting Reading Fluency & Habits: Practice Makes Perfect

Build strong, consistent reading routines and increase your child's comfort and speed when reading text (often called reading fluency by teachers).

Activity	How to Apply it with Newsela
Schedule Family Reading Time	Create a consistent routine. - Schedule a 15-minute reading time, twice a week or more often, as dedicated Family Reading Time. - This builds a strong habit and shows your child that reading is important.
Read Aloud Time	Read the same article together, taking turns. - You read one paragraph clearly, then your child reads the next. - This activity turns reading into a fun activity you share and lets your child hear reading modeled smoothly.
Help Manage Reading Challenge	Find the "Just Right" Level. - Newsela lets you change the reading level. - Ask: "Was that level too easy, too hard, or just right?" - Choosing the right level helps them practice without getting frustrated.
Give Positive Feedback	Focus on their effort! Say, "I love how you sounded out that tricky word!" or "You read for the whole 15 minutes—great focus!"



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Deepening Comprehension & Thinking: Understand the Main Message

These activities focus on helping your child grasp the core ideas of the article and talk about the story.

Activity	How to Apply it with Newsela
Let Them Be the Storyteller	Ask them to tell the story back to you. - Use basic questions: <i>Who was the article about?</i> <i>What happened?</i> <i>Where did it take place?</i> - Simple retelling is a huge step for young readers.
Set Simple Reading Goals	Decide on simple challenges. - Example: "Let's read this story and then draw a picture of the main character!" - This encourages them to find textual evidence and use their creativity.
Collaborative Highlighting for Main Ideas	Use Newsela's annotation tool together. - Read an article and agree on what the most important sentences are. - Highlighting together makes reading closely a shared project.
Try a Reading Response Challenge	Get creative after reading. Challenge your child to act out their favorite scene, draw a solution to a problem in the article, or write a simple sentence about the main idea.



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Mastering Vocabulary & Language: Learning New Words

These suggestions help your child expand their word knowledge, which is essential for understanding more complex texts.

Activity	How to Apply it with Newsela
Use Your Family's Languages	Talk about the new word in your home language. • If a word is new in English, see if there is a similar idea or word in your home language. • This uses your family knowledge for understanding new vocabulary.
Collaborative Highlighting for Vocabulary	Use Newsela's annotation tool to track new words. • Read an article and use a specific color to highlight any words they don't know. • Then, look up the definitions together or discuss what the words could mean by how they are used in the article.
Discuss Word Parts	Discuss if the word has parts that look like other words. • When a new word comes up, talk about whether the word has parts that look similar to other words and whether they can give clues about the meaning. • Example: Maritime looks like marine - does this deal with water?



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Practicing for Success: Get Ready for Assessments

This section focuses on using the tools Newsela provides to check for understanding and prepare for quizzes or assignments.

Activity	How to Apply it with Newsela
Practice Thinking Skills	Practice quizzes together, as a team. • Read the questions and answers out loud. • Talk through why one answer is the best choice. • This teaches them how to think through questions for future tests.
Monitor Reading Effort Together	Look at their work together. • Ask your child to show you their Newsela "Assignments" page. • Look at their finished work and give praise for completing the tasks. • Ask: ◦ "What did you learn from this assignment?" ◦ "Was the work easy, average or difficult for you?"



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