



# HEADS IN, HEARTS IN

## Let's Read!

### Instructions for Set-Up



### Supplies

- “Guide for Families” handout
- Clear plastic standup display (optional)
- 10–15 popular children’s books
- Large craft sticks (5 per participant)
- Several permanent markers
- Sealable plastic snack bag (one per participant)
- “Tips for Reading With Children” handout from the Michigan State University Extension MI Stronger Family series (one per participant) (Find at [https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/234/59099/Tips\\_for\\_Reading\\_with\\_Children.pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/234/59099/Tips_for_Reading_with_Children.pdf).)
- Display table

### Activity Preparation

- ▶ Purchase or locate items on supply list.
- ▶ Print one copy of the “Guide for Families” handout. Laminate or place in a clear plastic standup display to allow participants to see it more readily.
- ▶ Review the popular children’s books.
- ▶ Create an example of the craft sticks by taking five sticks and writing one word on each:
  - Who?
  - Where?
  - What?
  - Events
  - Ending
- ▶ Print “Tips for Reading With Children” handouts.
- ▶ Set up the display table and arrange needed supplies.





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## Let's Read! Guide for Families

### Learning Objectives

#### What you need to know:

Reading is an essential skill. Pre-reading skills begin to develop just after birth and develop rapidly during the first five years of life. Early literacy skills play a big role in a child's school success, and it's crucial that children have lots of opportunities to practice early literacy skills. These early literacy skills include letter and letter sound recognition, pre-writing skills, vocabulary and oral language skills. Early experiences with books play an important role in literacy skill development.

#### What you will do and learn:

Children will choose a book to explore and read. Work with them to recall and identify what happened during the story.

\* The questions listed here come from Michigan State University Extension's "The Retelling Glove," part of the MI Stronger Family series.

### Instructions

1. Let the child choose a book.
2. Explore and read the book together.
3. Take five craft sticks and write one word on each. (See the example sticks.):
  - ▶ Who?
  - ▶ Where?
  - ▶ What?
  - ▶ Events
  - ▶ Ending
4. Work with the child to recall what happened during the story by asking the child to choose a craft stick, reading the word on the craft stick, and then asking questions\* such as:  
  
Who?: Who is the main character in the story? Name some other characters in the story. Tell me about one of the characters.  
  
Where?: Where does the story take place? Where do the characters live?  
  
What?: What is the problem in the story? What happened in the story?  
  
Events: Retell the events in order: beginning, middle and end. Tell what happened first, second and so on. Tell me about a specific event.  
  
Ending: Tell me about the end of the story. Where you surprised at the way the story ended? Tell me another way the story could have ended.
5. Place all five of the craft sticks in the plastic bag to take home and use with another book.
6. Take home a "Tips for Reading With Children" handout.