READING TOGETHER
Making the Most of Your Partnership

On these two pages you'll find an at-a-glance summary of key information and strategies for working with your reading partner. You may also want to refer to the more extensive introductory material provided in the BrainStorm Wild Weather Teaching Guide.

Before Reading

❋*Have a brief conversation about the topic,* making personal connections and encouraging your student to do the same.

❋*Take a "picture walk" with your partner* and talk about what you see. Try to work vocabulary words into your discussion of the photos.

❋*Preview headlines, captions, and graphics,* such as charts or maps. The more your student knows before reading, the easier it will be to read.

❋*Preview vocabulary.* Challenging words are listed on the left-hand side of the article and are highlighted in bold in the article's text.

❋*Encourage your student to make predictions* and to articulate what he or she hopes to learn from reading.

During Reading

❋*As you and your partner read together,* gauge how he or she is doing and provide whatever level of assistance is appropriate. Use the assisted reading strategies outlined in the red box below.

❋*Encourage your student to be an engaged partner* in reading. Let him or her know it's always OK to ask questions.

❋*Support your student* in thinking about what is going on in the article and whether it makes sense.

❋*Stop frequently to check comprehension.* Ask a question or two at the end of each section in the article to confirm that the student is understanding what he or she is reading.

After Reading

❋*Ask the student to summarize* what the article was about or what new information he or she learned from it.

❋*Go over any words* that were new to your student. Use various strategies to help your student figure them out: context, sounding out the letters, looking for recognizable parts of the word.

❋*Help your student* complete the questions and activities in the right-hand sidebar.

❋*Talk about* something fun or interesting that you or your partner learned from the article.

❋*Always conclude* with a brief review of the material. Compliment your student on any progress he or she made in the day's session!

Assisted Reading Strategies

The best way to help your reading partner become a stronger reader is through a series of strategies that range from a very high level of assistance to minimal support. Start at the top and move through the levels as quickly or slowly as seems appropriate and helpful for your student. The first session should give you a good sense of your partner's current reading level and the level of assistance he or she will need moving forward. At every level of support, stop frequently for quick comprehension checks.

1 **MODEL READING.** The child reads silently, following along as you model fluent reading by reading aloud. Modeling allows the student to hear a good, expressive reader and to concentrate on new vocabulary and on the meaning of the text. Try modeling only the first paragraph, and only for the first few sessions. But come back to modeling as often as necessary if your partner is struggling.

2 **CHORAL READING.** Read aloud together. You should set and maintain the pace, reading slowly enough for your student to keep up.

3 **SHADOW READING.** Read aloud together, but now you jump in and fade out as needed. The student sets and maintains the pace.

4 **INDEPENDENT READING.** The child reads aloud fluently to you, with minimal or no assistance.