



# Foreword

Education begins at home. The first simple word a parent speaks to an infant opens the world of language to the child and sets the child on the path of exploration and discovery. When formal schooling begins, many parents believe that their role as educators has ended. But education is a shared responsibility of parents, schools, teachers, and various institutions in the economy and in society. New findings from PISA show that parental involvement in education is pivotal for the success of children throughout their school years and beyond.

These PISA results also offer comfort to parents who are concerned that they don't have enough time or the requisite academic knowledge to help their children succeed in school. Many types of parental involvement that are associated with better student performance in PISA require relatively little time and no specialised knowledge. What counts is genuine interest and active engagement.

This report, *Let's Read Them a Story! The Parent Factor in Education*, seeks to determine whether and how parents' involvement is related to their child's proficiency in and enjoyment of reading. And given that reading skills are an essential tool for understanding the world, the report also examines whether students whose parents were more involved in their education were better equipped to learn throughout their lifetimes.

*Let's Read Them a Story!* not only documents PISA results and analysis, it also offers parents, educators and policy makers practical suggestions on how to improve parental involvement and describes the kinds of activities that are most strongly associated with better reading performance. It provides a wealth of examples of programmes that promote effective forms of parental involvement from around the world. Most important, the report shows parents that it's never too early – and never too late – to get involved in their child's education. Being involved is the best investment parents can make in the future of the next generation!

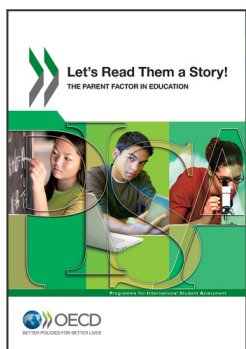
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