Chaucer's Guide to Online Literacy Resources for Parents and Teachers

A supplement to *Learning Is Cool... It's the First Day of School!*
(Chaucer in the Classroom Series, Book One)

GetReadytoRead.org

The "Home Literacy Checklist" alone is worth a visit to this site. (We would add one suggestion to the list though: Keep your child's nascent book collection stored in baskets kept in every main room in the house, rather than in a single special spot. You want your child to learn to *live* with books!) The site also contains a literacy screening tool; online animated games to help build reading skills; free activity cards with projects easy enough for even the least arts-and-crafty moms and dads out there; and more.

Starfall.com

The site provides online and printed materials to teach reading to children both at home and in the classroom. No registration is required to access many of the free, interactive online games. A letter to parents explains how to use the online resources – and notes that while electronic games can be effective practice tools, nothing takes the place of switching off the computer or television and reading a book together. Three woofs for that!

ICanTeachMyChild.com

"Helping you be your child's <u>first</u> teacher" is the motto of this conversational website by a mother of three and former elementary-school teacher. I especially like the Thematic Units section of the site for its easy and fun projects that teach early-reading skills – although "Dogs" was not one of the themes listed. Penguins, monsters, and dinosaurs, yes. Dogs, no. Blog posts such as "5 Ways to Make Handwriting Fun" round out the useful content on this early-learning site.

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