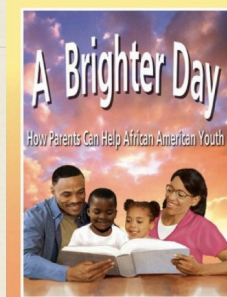




Dr. Gail L. Thompson, The Wells Fargo Endowed Professor of Education at Fayetteville State University and 2010 Alumna of the Year at Claremont Graduate University has written six books: *A Brighter Day: How Parents Can Help African American Youth*; *The Power of One: How You Can Help or Harm African American Students*; *Up Where We Belong: Helping African American and Latino Students Rise in School and in Life*; *African American Teens Discuss Their Schooling Experiences*; *What African American Parents Want Educators to Know*; and *Through Ebony Eyes: What Teachers Need to Know but are Afraid to Ask About African American Students*. She co-wrote a seventh book, *Exposing the Culture of Arrogance in the Academy: A Blueprint for Increasing Black Faculty Satisfaction*, with Dr. Angela Louque. Dr. Thompson's work has also been published in three edited books, *USA Today*, and numerous academic journals.

She has appeared on PBS television's *Tony Brown's Journal*, numerous radio programs, and has been quoted in numerous newspaper articles. Dr. Thompson has served as a reviewer for several academic journals and educational organizations, and has done presentations, keynote addresses, workshops, and consultant work throughout the U.S. and two presentations in Canada. Dr. Thompson taught at a public junior high school for three years, and at a public high school for 11 years. She is married to Rufus, a retired educator and technology consultant, and they have three adult children, Dr. Nafissa Thompson-Spires, NaChe', a public school teacher, and Stephen, a college undergraduate. She is the proud grandparent of Iveren.



by
Dr. Gail Thompson
A BRIGHTER DAY
SAGE PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Featuring fantastic real-life stories that are contemporary and motivational, this strategy guide for parents provides the necessary tools for those who want to make a difference in their children's education. By addressing difficult issues that have a tendency to distract kids from their studies, such as peer pressure and sexuality, as well as the everyday influence of rap music, television, and video games, these accessible strategies teach parents how to communicate better and raise their expectations of their children. Rounded out by advice on how to help with homework, maintain good grades, and enforce the respect for authority on which a good education depends, this indispensable guide also grants parents better insight into the challenges faced by schools.

For details and links to purchase this and other books, please go to my website.

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BROCHURE DESIGNED BY
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IT'S NOT TOO EARLY!

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO RAISING A CHILD WHO READS WELL



1. **The Public Library:** There is nothing like the smell of books and the discipline of sitting with others without disturbing them and enjoying a good book. You should stay with your child because he or she benefits from your presence.
2. **Free magazines:** There are free magazines on the racks at stores and businesses. These magazines are designed to get the reader's attention and are full of advertising but they still have articles that can be read by your child. One activity would be to have your child look for something interesting in the magazines that may help the family.
3. **Thinkfinity.com** by Verizon is a website for educators and parents and it is free. <http://www.thinkfinity.com>
4. **Funbrain** is for students under grade 5. <http://www.funbrain.com>
5. **Starfall** is for Pre-K through Third grade. <http://www.starfall.com>
6. **Writing Helps Reading** Comprehension. Here is a website that will help your child with writing ideas and the writing process. http://thewritesource.com/writing_topics/

Resources That are Free or Low Cost

READING STRATEGIES:

- Buy books for children and take your children to the public library to check out books on a regular basis.
- Encourage children to check out books from the school library or classroom library on a regular basis.
- Read to children daily.
- Ask children to read to you on a regular basis. This can take place while you're cooking dinner, doing the laundry, or some other household chore.
- Encourage children to read to their younger brothers and sisters.
- In order to ensure that children are understanding the reading material, ask them to tell you what the story is about.
- If a child does not know a word in the story, ask him/her to look up the word in a dictionary and write the meaning on an index card. The child can keep a box of index cards of new words and review them periodically.
- Model reading to children by letting them see you read books and magazines for pleasure.
- Remember that books are valuable gifts for birthdays and holidays. Buying books will enable children to have a print-rich environment at home. Research has shown that children who grow up in print-rich environments have better reading skills than children who do not.
- Make sure that your child is getting homework several nights a week.
- Check your child's homework. If you can't help him/her with the work, ask the teacher or principal to assign a peer tutor to help him/her.

We must help our children develop good reading skills.

Each year, countless K-12 students are passed through the system with poor reading skills. African American students tend to be over represented among the students who read below grade level, and on standardized tests, African American students are more likely to have lower reading scores than most of their non-African American grade-level peers. Because reading is so important, parents should begin helping their children become good readers as early as possible. The following information can help parents do this. The following resources and strategies can help parents do this.