

Discussion Guide: Comienza En Casa Video Vignette

Giving parents the right materials, tools, and support can help leverage their power as their children's first teachers.

We heard about <u>Comienza en Casa/It Starts at Home</u> in 2012, when we interviewed one of its co-creators, a gregarious teacher in Maine named Bonnie Blagojevic. Blagojevic described a program in which a home visitor—who happened to be her daughter—arrived at homes with armfuls of learning materials and guided families in lively learning sessions that involved iPads, iBooks, podcasts, print books, toys, cardboard boxes, cooking recipes, and art supplies. It sounded like a blast. Better yet: almost every bit was offered in both English and Spanish.

Watch the Video at TapClickRead.org, Then Discuss

- · How can we help parents find age-appropriate educational apps?
- · How can we teach parents to use tech tools for learning enrichment?
- How can we better equip parents to understand what kindergarten-ready means? What tools can we give them to help ready their children for school?
- How can we teach parents to use tech in an appropriate way, balancing off-screen and on-screen learning?
- How can we help build the home-school connection for better parent engagement? What role can technology play in facilitating that work?
- Let's think about the families shown in the video: how would we engage them in our classrooms? How can family knowledge contribute to the classroom activities and lessons we are presenting? What are some tools used in the video that are applicable to the children we teach every day?



4 Ideas to Try



1

Hold a parent literacy night highlighting the language activities and strategies being focused on at school.



3

Invite parents to take home these DVDs and to try the activities with their children.



2

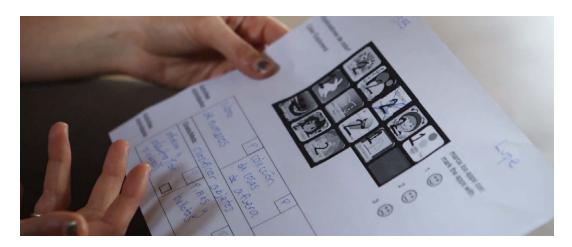
Make videos of teachers working with children on these activities and use these as a conversation starter.



4

Provide parents with a list of apps that you have curated.

Take a Look





See Chapter 6 of *Tap*, *Click*, *Read* for more information on how to choose educational apps.



This is part of a SET OF TIPSHEETS AND TOOLS free to all at <u>TapClickRead.org</u> and free to educators serving children in need at the First Book Marketplace, where those educators can gain access to low-cost and free books and resources. For more, see <u>fbmarketplace.org</u>.

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