



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**Public Education Department**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

*For immediate release*

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**Free, virtual: Register now for Family Literacy Academy**

*Workshop series to help families, caregivers help kids learn to read*

SANTA FE – Registration is now open for a series of three workshops to help families and caregivers learn strategies to help young readers improve their literacy skills at home.

The Public Education Department, in partnership with [TNTP \(formerly known as The New Teacher Project\)](#), is offering the virtual Family Literacy Academy, with sessions in Spanish and English, over February, March and April.

All workshops begin at 5 p.m. The first will be held Feb. 15 in English and Feb. 17 in Spanish and will focus on background knowledge and vocabulary. The second will be held March 29 in English and March 31 in Spanish and will focus on print concepts and fluency. The third, on April 26 (English) and April 28 (Spanish), will focus on comprehension.

[Register here for the English workshops: https://bit.ly/NMFLA22](https://bit.ly/NMFLA22)

[Register here for the Spanish workshops: https://bit.ly/NMAcademia](https://bit.ly/NMAcademia)

Participants will get information, tools and strategies to help young readers in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. All sessions will offer breakout rooms by grade level bands to give participants targeted support for building literacy skills in the home.

“You’ll learn similar techniques to what your child’s teacher is using to teach reading at school, but through fun strategies that will fit right into your daily routine at home,” said Katherine Avery, the Public Education Department’s director of Strategic Outreach. “Teachers study the science of reading, but you don’t have to have an education degree to apply science-of-reading strategies at home. We’ll get you started at the Family Literacy Academy.”

Participants will learn about “structured literacy” programs, which help children build skills sequentially and logically – starting with foundational skills like decoding symbols into words and building up to spelling, expanded vocabulary, comprehension and writing.

The structured literacy approach helps every child learn to read, but it’s essential for children with dyslexia, a learning disability that can make learning to read especially hard.

Up to 20% of the population displays signs of dyslexia by some estimates, which is why New Mexico is now screening every first-grade student for signs of dyslexia. The screening is not a diagnosis, but it helps educators intervene early on if a child needs it before those challenges become ingrained in the upper grades.

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The New Mexico Public Education Department partners with educators, communities and families to ensure that all students are healthy, secure in their identity and holistically prepared for college, career and life. Currently, the NMPED serves more than 317,000 students in 187 districts and charter schools. Find an abundance of resources for administrators, educators, families and students at [New Mexico Public Education Department \(state.nm.us\)](https://state.nm.us) or follow the PED [at NMPublicEducationDepartment](#) on Facebook and [@NMPED](#) on Twitter.