THE HOME READING CONNECTION

A black and white logo with a hand holding a book

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**A Note to Family Members**

With our busy lifestyles, it’s not always easy to make time to read. School, work, sports, extracurricular activities, family commitments and community events: All of these worthwhile endeavors seem to leave little time for reading. Or do they? Contrary to many classroom practices that view reading as a subject, reading is, in fact, an authentic part of our everyday experiences. Emails, scoreboards, cereal boxes, and street signs are a few examples of the ways we read each day. The more we begin to view reading as a natural and authentic way we make meaning of our lives, the easier it becomes to make time for reading. And if our goal is to have youngsters enjoy reading, then we, as proficient readers, want to model ways of reading and support the development of readers. Take time today to celebrate your own reading strengths by noticing how many reading events you engage in throughout your day.

**Creating a Reading Environment**

A few quick notes on a supportive reading environment at home:

* **A Quiet Space** (not always easy!): Be creative and cuddle in a closet or under the covers. Maybe sit outside or recommend a “Do Not Disturb” room for readers and reading time.
* **Create a Personal Library**: This could be a shelf, basket, or bookcase where reading materials can be kept (and added to!).
* **Think Outside the Book**: Books are terrific! However, books can represent endless pages of struggle and disappointment for reluctant readers. Think about comics, magazines, graphic novels, picture books, instruction manuals, and books with short stories as ways to introduce (without overwhelming) reading as a pleasurable activity.

**Reasons for Reading**

Did you know the most important factor is developing reading success is *confidence*? When an individual has confidence, they are more willing to take reading risks and recognize their strengths and challenges. So, let’s look at some reasons for reading:

* **Learn Language Skills**: Readers learn new concepts/ideas, improve vocabulary knowledge, and gain understanding of grammar (and phonics, too!).
* **Build Empathy & Esteem**: Stories – both real and imaginary – allow us to see multiple perspectives to better understand other people and to value ourselves as individuals. Acceptance of “the other” invites us into a broader world view.
* **Creative Thinking**: Readers can see new possibilities and interests.
* **Promote Mental Well-Being**: Reading is a way to de-stress and remove ourselves from negative bombardments present in our world.

**Beyond the Book : Making Connections**

As your reader reads more and more, they begin to show interests in certain topics. Go with it! Encourage the reader to continue reading in areas of interests. Roles and relationships shift as the reader becomes the expert and shares their knowledge. Use post-reading to make writing connections (Shhh...don’t let them know they’re becoming writers!).

* **Art as Interpretation**: Crayons, markers, sketchpads, and paper become tools that the reader uses (now as writer) to show understanding of what they’re reading. If the reading material has pictures, they can use that information to recreate characters, enhance story setting, or retell events.
* **Reading Conversations**: Allow for readers to *talk* about what they’ve read. Retellings, summaries, and questions are all ways for readers to improve oral language development.
* **Reader’s Journal**: In order to encourage intrinsic motivation, readers can keep a personal journal where they draw, write, or however they choose to document their own reading experiences.
* **Libraries & More**: Visit your local library, bookstore, thrift store, or yard sales to add to book collections. Make book borrowing and owning a special event!

**Reading Strategies: And They Read Happily Ever After**

* **Establish a Reading Routine**: Have a consistent schedule: set a regular time for homework and a dedicated reading time. This should be in a quiet and comfortable environment that is free from distractions.
* **Buddy Reading: Partners in Proficiency**: Read aloud together. Buddy reading allows for a proficient reader to model the reading process. Avoid correcting during reading. Instead, at the end of a page, ask the reader, “Did that make sense?”
* **Questioning**: Take time to ask and answer questions. This is the opportunity to discuss new concepts and unfamiliar vocabulary.t556666t
* **Predict & Infer**: Use pictures and text clues to help your child make predictions and inferences. Prediction and inferential skill development enhances comprehension and engage their child's imagination. NOTE: *Inference is a conclusion based on evidence and reasoning. Prediction is a statement about what might happen.*
* **Vocabulary Chat**: The use of context clues helps the reader to understand unfamiliar words. Talk about finding the meaning of new words based on what you’re reading or how you can use resources to find the meaning of words. NOTE: *Anyone still play Scrabble? Or any board games?*
* **Oral Reading Performance**: Model fluent reading for your child.This involves demonstrating smooth and expressive reading, highlighting punctuation and phrasing. Repeated reading is a highly effective strategy. Repetition helps improve flow, accuracy and comprehension.
* **Retell & Summarize**: It is important for youngsters of all ages to have opportunities to both retell and summarize in order to show understanding.
* **Visualization**: Visualizing is when readers create mental images based on the text. When reading with your children, ask them to describe what they see in their mind's eye while reading.
* **Monitor For Meaning**: Monitor meaning throughout the text to ensure it is meaningful and enjoyable to the child.

*Our goal is creating lifelong lovers of reading and writing.*

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845-684-0103 (leave message)

Hours (Additional Times By Appointment)

Monday 10:00 – 5:00

Tuesday 10:00 – 5:00

Wednesday 10:00 – 5:00

Thursday – Closed

Friday – Closed

Saturday 9:00 – 3:00

Sunday 9:00 – 3:00

Thank You for Today’s Participation!

With gratitude,

Lori Rosendale