



Teddy Talk

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Books! Books! Books! Each classroom has books available for children to read throughout their day. We read at least one book daily to practice building vocabulary and comprehension. We teach letters, sounds and writing. Books bring joy and community to our spaces!

The Power of Books

Over this past month, we have been able to partner with you on some of the first steps in your child's educational journey. We have met through conferences, our first Family Workshop and many days through drop off and pick up.

As we continue through the year, you will hear your child's teacher talking about the many parts of your child's development. In October, our Family Workshop will focus on Literacy. So what is literacy and why is it important?

Literacy refers to your child's ability to read and write. Yes, your child is building the skills for reading and writing everyday at preschool and home! We often refer to these skills as emergent, or developing.

In preschool, we use many tools to build your child's skills. We use Zoophonics to help learn letter sounds, Handwriting without Tears to help build letter formation skills and more. But the most powerful tool we use-books.

Reading books practices many of the skills that are essential to building a strong literacy foundation.

Books provide an opportunity to hear the rhythms and patterns of language. This piece of phonological awareness is the first step of literacy.

For more on phonological awareness, visit: <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/development-phonological-skills>

Reading builds vocabulary and develops a child's ability to understand language through stories. Studies continue to show that "effective vocabulary intervention can ameliorate reading difficulties later on." (The Magic of Words, 2014)

Using books, children also begin to understand that print has meaning. This is a key piece to the intentional teaching that needs to happen for children to become readers.

Perhaps the best part about reading with your child is the positive and calming interactions you can share. Learning to read can be hard work and is not a natural skill, so the more you can associate positive experiences with your child, the more likely you will help support your child becoming a life long reader. Also, snuggling in with a good book with your child is a fantastic way to build positive relationships with your child.

And, as many experts have found, reading just 3 high quality picture books a day with your child can make an enormous impact.

When you are looking at some of the most powerful moments you can share with your child, consider the amazing power of books and shared reading experiences to help your child grow!

Ready, set....READ!
Thank you for your partnership!

Important Information

Coming Up...



October 10: No School: Fall Day
October 11: Literacy Family Workshop @ 6:00pm
October 12 & 13: North Individual Picture Day
October 27: No School: Preschool PD Day

Fall Spirit Week:

October 31: Costume Day
November 1: Costume Day
November 2: T-Shirt Day
November 3: Pajama Day
November 4: Math Family Workshop @10:00am



Stay Safe: Reminders for School

- Hold your child's hand as you enter and exit our facilities.
 - Please do NOT use cell phones on school property.
 - Please close and lock gates (chains) when entering and exiting.
 - Use caution when you enter and exit the parking lot.
 - Enter the parking lot at the south end and exit the other side.
 - If you are parking in the street, please be aware of traffic around you and do not block driveways or the bus pull-through.
 - Please keep pets off of school grounds.
 - The safest place for Preschoolers to ride in the car is in the backseat in a car seat or booster.
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Family Passports



Are you finishing your family passport? Through your involvement in this program, you are helping encourage positive behaviors both at home and at school. The activities in the passport also support the health and wellness of your child. And it is a wonderful home and school connection opportunity!

What is it?

You should have gotten a blue tri-fold paper sent home in mid- September. When you complete the activities in the first column, then some in column two and three, you can turn in the passport for a prize!

How can I encourage my child to read?



There is no doubt that we are living in a technology driven world. But how do I get my child to enjoy reading a book after becoming attached to their tech? Below are some ideas from the article:

How I Got My Toddler Back on Books After She Got a Taste of Screen Time

Eight clever and creative ideas for making reading time as fascinating as "Frozen."

By Angela Zimmerman

1. Make it a daily ritual. Morning, after school, or at bedtime? What works best for you?
2. Let them pick the story- even for the 200th time!
3. Find a quiet, special space. Is it with a comfy blanket or a special chair?
4. Don't freak out and completely eliminate screen time. Try to be strategic with when, how often, and how much you let them imbibe.
5. Keep the selection fresh. Hit the library regularly!
6. Find print books with sensory experiences.
7. Keep 'em all over.
8. Resist the begging with clever excuses.

A lifelong love of reading is a gift you can give to your kids that they will carry forever.

Screen time limits as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics:

-For children ages 2 to 5 years, limit screen use to 1 hour per day of high quality programs. Parents should co-view media with children to help them understand what they are seeing and apply it to the world around them.

The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests guidelines for screen use for children. You can find more information on their website at:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Healthy-Digital-Media-Use-Habits-for-Babies-Toddlers-Preschoolers.aspx>

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