

Library Cards

A Request of Parents of Elementary Students

There is absolutely no doubt that every student greatly benefits by having his or her own local library card. We know that many children already have the library habit. For those who don't, try it! Use your library, and support its services enthusiastically. Many of the students have their own books; indeed some of these collections are quite extensive. Still, please don't overlook the incomparable benefits of using the library.

The child who gains comfort and facility in the library gains the freedom to pursue anything and everything. Libraries are a vast resource *outside* of the home, *outside* of the classroom. **Libraries are a part of that universe that cultivates the child between the ages of 6 and 12.** Responsible use of the library empowers children.

Please help your child apply for a library card **in his or her name.**

The children should have the freedom to choose their own books. If adult suggestions are met with resistance, this is usually a request by the child for the adult to step back. This is the approach we recommend. Remember, particularly for beginning readers it's not so important *what* they read, as long as they *read*.

The children should have the responsibility for borrowed books. They should be expected to handle them properly, know where they are, when they are due, etc. To learn to handle these responsibilities on their own is one of the greatest things the children will learn by using the library. Support their independence by providing a place in your home to store library books and a calendar where they can mark when their books are due. Gentle reminders to check the calendar and paying the fines themselves with their allowance support them in developing responsibility.

The children need to bring their library cards to school on the first day.

PLEASE NOTE: The children need to bring their library cards to school on the first day so they have what they need to do their work. These cards will remain at school. The library has informed us that the children do not need their card to check out a book with you, since you provide identification for your child. However, they do need a card to be able to check out books during school hours. Please apply for a library card that works "universally" in Marin. Happy reading!