



Read, Read, Read!

Dear Families,

You've heard it before, and I'll say it again. You are your child's first and most important teacher! Over the school year, I'll be sending home letters with suggestions for how you can help your child at home. You'll discover how much fun reading, talking, singing, and playing with your child can be! And you'll be laying the groundwork for a lifetime of learning and a love of reading.

The best way to help your child learn to read is to read, read, read to him or her!

1. Model reading in front of your child. Read in front of your child often. Read the newspaper, directions on recipes, labels on clothing, and street signs. Show your child the importance of reading, and also the pleasure you get from reading.
2. Set aside a special time each day to read with your child. It might be right before bed, or you could wake your child up each morning with a story.
3. Point your finger under the words as you read them.
4. Talk about the title of the book, the author, illustrator, and so on. Ask questions. "Where does the story take place (the setting)?" "Who are the characters?" "Could this really happen or is it a pretend story?" Do this in a fun way.
5. Take your child to the library. Help your child get his or her own library card and encourage him or her to take responsibility for books.
6. Create a special basket or shelf in your home where you keep books and magazines for your child to read. You might also want to keep a backpack filled with books in your car.

Happy reading!