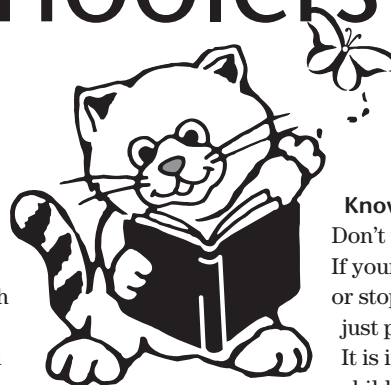


Curiosity Corner

Tips for Parents of Preschoolers



The preschool years are very important in helping your child to develop a love for learning and to build the basics for becoming a good reader. At this time, the world is full of possibilities for your young child. At school, we will do our part to ensure he or she gets the best education possible. There are also things you can do at home to give him or her some added advantages. The tips on this page are designed to assist you in helping your child be the best reader possible.

Communicate with the teacher.

Starting now and every year, form a strong bond with your child's teacher. Learn what your child is doing well and where there might be a need for extra support.

Make it a point to call and introduce yourself to your child's teacher.

Read together every day.

Read to your child every day. Set aside a special time that you and your child can spend together with a book. Make it a warm and special time for both of you, sit close, cuddle up, and read something that is fun for you and your child.

Give everything a name.

Children learn by listening. The more words they know, the better they will be able to read. You can build your child's vocabulary by talking about the things you see together. For example: "Look at that train, that is the engine, and those are the cars. The very last car is called the caboose. Let's count the number of cars on the train."

Talk about how much you enjoy reading.

Demonstrate to your child that reading is important and enjoyable. Talk about the role reading plays in your life and how you use it every day, even to read things like signs, directions, forms, etc.

Read with fun in your voice.

Read to your child with humor and expression. Make the story come alive with different voices and excitement. Ham it up!

Know when to stop.

Don't try to force the issue. If your child loses interest or stops paying attention, just put the book away. It is important that children not think of reading as a negative task.

Involve your child in the story.

Discuss what's happening in the story. Ask questions such as "How does the character feel?" or "Why do you think he did that?" and "What do you think will happen next?" Discuss the pictures and point to things on the page.

Read the same book over and over.

It may seem boring to you, but children love hearing their favorite story many times. So go ahead and read it as many times as your child is willing to listen.

Talk about the structure of the book.

Point out the cover and back, the title, and the author of the book. Show how we read from left to right, that words have spaces between them, and that there are sentences.

Point out print everywhere.

Talk about how you are always reading and that print is everywhere. Point to words and say, "That says _____." Ask your child to find a new word each day.

Keep your child healthy and ready to learn.

Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep and that he or she eats breakfast everyday (either at home or at school). Establish routines (such as bedtime) that show your child school is important. Make sure education is kept as a priority for you and your child.