

Kindergarten News!

February



Reading Information



All the Kinders have been working very hard to improve their reading. As the new year begins, we would like to take the time to discuss the “Big 5” elements of reading and ways you can support your child at home. Thank you for your continued support as your child continues to grow as a reader!

The Big 5

1. **Phonemic Awareness** (the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate the individual sounds in spoken words)
2. **Phonics** (the understanding that there is a predictable relationship between sounds and letters)
3. **Fluency** (the ability to read a text accurately and quickly)
4. **Vocabulary** (words we must know to communicate effectively)
5. **Text Comprehension** (the reason for reading)



Ways To Support Each Area of The “Big 5”

Phonemic Awareness:

1. Create rhyming words
2. Phonemic segmentation (Ex: Can you count the syllable or word parts in football?)
3. Sound substitution (Ex: What rhymes with pig and starts with “d?”)
4. Sound isolation (Ex: children identify the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words)

Phonics:

1. Working with chunks (Ex: finding words with the “an” chunk)
2. Encourage them to sound out words when writing (Ex: use your magic rubber band to stretch out the word “jump”)
3. Find long and short vowel sounds in words
4. Make an alphabet book (On each page have your child draw pictures that begin with each letter in the alphabet).

Ways To Support Each Area of The Big 5

Fluency:

1. Oral reading (improves word recognition, speed, and accuracy)
2. Model fluent reading
3. Choral reading (read along with another fluent reader)
4. Tape-assisted reading (read along in their books as they hear a fluent reader read the book on an audiotape)

Vocabulary:

1. Use dictionaries and other reference aids
2. Use word parts (Ex: if your child knows the base word or root word, it can help them learn the meaning of the new word)
3. Use context clues (Ex: hints about the meaning of an unknown word that is provided in the sentences)

Text Comprehension:

1. Use graphic organizers
2. Ask your child to retell the beginning, middle, and end
3. Generate questions to ask your child after they read
4. Use prior knowledge to make connections



Technology Support for Kids

Here are some great websites you can use at home with your child to reinforce the "Big 5." We hope you find them helpful!

<http://www.abcya.com> (great website for all grade levels)

<http://www.starfall.com> (great for phonics and phonemic awareness)

<http://www.pdictionary.com> (great for ESOL students and building vocabulary)

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/hiat/websites/reading.shtm> (great website for all reading resources)



Website for Parents

<http://www.reading.org/informationfor/Parents.aspx> (this website will help you as you take on your critical role as your child's first and most important teacher)

