

Families for Literacy Program Newsletter

September, 2019

Tutors: please go over this newsletter (whatever is appropriate) with your adult students and encourage them to visit the Story Times with their children, it's a lot of fun and so very important:

**Children who grow up being read to, grow up to love books and reading.
Join our free Library Story Times to become a Family of Readers:**

Lakeport Library, 1425 N. High Street, **Fridays, 10:15 am and 2:30 pm**

Middletown Library, 21256 Washington Street, Middletown, **Tuesdays, 11:30 am**

Redbud Library, 14785 Burns Valley Road, Clearlake, **Thursdays, 10:30 am**



Your child's brain starts forming even before being born. Children learn best doing things with someone they love — like you! You have the power to shape your child's learning by sharing everyday loving moments.

Remember: You are your child's first and most important teacher!



Part 2: Tips for toddlers (look for part 1: **Tips for infants** in the August edition)

TALK

♥ Everywhere you go, talk about what you see. A traffic light or a tree might seem boring to you, but it's a whole new world to your child, so teach them about it!

- ♥ Young children learn best during playful, everyday activities. Play "I-Spy" in the grocery store together. Choose a color and encourage your child to point out objects that match the color.
- ♥ Try some early math activities: point out shapes on your child's plate or around the kitchen. Ask your child, "How many sides does a square have?" "How about a triangle?"
- ♥ Play games during bath time to help your child learn new words. Take turns dropping toys in the water. Say, "Watch it sink!" or "See, it floats!"
- ♥ Talk about things that happened in the past, or that might happen in the future. ("Remember, when...") "I think the new playground should have monkey bars")
- ♥ Talk about things that are far away ("Do you remember what we saw at the beach last weekend?")
- ♥ Talk about *why* and *how* things might happen: ("What might have caused the bus to get a flat tire?")
- ♥ Talk about what people *think* and *feel*: ("He's yelling. I've felt like that before.")
- ♥ Formal reading instruction with very young children is counter productive to children, who may begin to associate reading and books with failure. Instead:

Have the children retell a story from memory.

Have the children retell a story with a new ending that they make up.

Have the children make up a new title for a book, and tell why.

- ♥ Talk about the book *before* you read it ("This book is called "*The terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.*" I wonder what happened to the boy to make his day so horrible?")
- ♥ Talk about the book *during* the reading ("Wow, Farmer McGregor certainly doesn't like Peter Rabbit in his garden!")
- ♥ Talk about the book *after* a book is read. ("Living in Alaska sounds like fun. What would you like to do if you went there?")



TALK
with us

**Free
Books!**

Did you know?? Children with low-education families can do just as well as children with high-education families if they have access to books at home.
Ask your tutor about the **free children's books** available to you!

READ

- ♥ Inspire a love of books in your young child by reading or telling a story together **every day**.
- ♥ Point to the pictures, letters, and numbers in books. Ask open-ended questions: "What do you see? How does he feel? What would you do if you were her? What's your favorite page?"
- ♥ Let your child turn the pages. It's OK if they skip pages, or like a few pages better than others. You just want your child to get used to touching books.
- ♥ Don't worry about finishing the story - make it short and sweet, BUT



Make books a part of your daily routine:

At Meal Times: Sing or read a story during a moment of quiet nursing or to gather the kids around the noisy breakfast table.

In the Car or on the Bus: Take a few books with you to keep your little ones quiet and busy.

At Child Care Drop Off: Soothe a child at good-bye time with a favorite story or lullaby. Leave a photo book with pictures of family members with your child to flip through when she is missing you.

At the Doctor's Office: Read or tell a soothing story in the waiting room and sing or talk through the scary parts of the visit. Read books about going to the doctor so your child knows what to expect.

At the Grocery Store: Put a few board books in the shopping cart or tie a cloth book to the shopping cart so you're not cleaning up books from the floor as you go!

Familiar routines always help babies calm down:

At Bath Time: Plastic bath time books are great fun and help a fussy baby enjoy the tub a little more.

At Day's End: You are exhausted, the kids are fussy... Lie down on the floor surrounded by books. Play a book on tape for children. Sing a song together while you all try to relax a bit.

At Nap or Bed Time: Soothing books and stories can work magic to help your kids fall asleep!

SING

- ♥ Sing during everyday activities like driving in the car, or during bath time. It can be repetitive and simple, like "Wash your toes, wash your nose!"
- ♥ Singing songs that have basic counting or rhyming patterns also helps children learn basic math skills. "One, two, buckle my shoe. Three, four, open the door."
- ♥ Your toddler loves to get positive attention from you. Singing is a great way for you and your toddler to share an activity:



Days of the week (Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday too. Wednesday, Thursday just for you.
Friday, Saturday that's the end. Now let's say those days again!
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday too,
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday!

A Counting We will go (Tune: The Farmer in the Dell)

A counting we will go, a counting we will go,
Count 1 to 10, let's begin: a counting we will go.

(Spoken) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10!

A coloring we will go, a coloring we will go,
Name the color that you know: I coloring we will go.

Orange, yellow, blue, brown, red, black, white purple, green, pink!

A shaping we will go, a shaping we will go,
Name the shapes and take no brakes: A shaping we will go.

Circle, triangle, rectangle, square, oval, diamond, octagon, heart.

Head, Shoulders, Knees And Toes

Head, shoulders, knees and toes

Knees and toes

Head, shoulders knees and toes

Knees and toes.

And eyes and ears

And mouth and nose

Head, shoulders knees and toes

Knees and toes!

Feet, tummies, arms and chins

Arms and chins

Feet, tummies, arms and chins

Arms and chins.

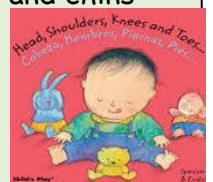
And eyes and ears

And mouth and shins

Feet and tummies arms and chins

Arms and chins!

Check the book out
at your library:



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