**FAMILY MATTERS *EVERY CHILD. EVERY PARENT.***

# **ACADEMY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE** 728 Parkside Boulevard, Toledo, Ohio 43607

# ***A monthly newsletter from the Department of Special Services***

# VOL. 1 Issue 7 *WORKING TOGETHER FOR FAMILY SUCCESS* JANUARY, 2021

*Family Matters* is an outreach effort from the Academy of Educational Excellence– Department of Special Services and its SPED Program. *Family Matters* will provide parents with information about special education and other resources available to assist them to help their children.

  

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|  | **MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES** **AND EDITOR- FAMILY MATTERS NEWSLETTER**  **Dr. Israel I. Koppisch**iikoppisch@aeetoledo.orgTel: 419-382-2280 |
| ***STRONG PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IS A KEY COMPONENT OF OUR READING INITIATIVE***Today, perhaps more than ever due to the pandemic and virtual learning, parents play an important role in their child’s education. Gone are the days when it was solely the school’s job to educate. Parents are an active part of the teaching and learning process, which can be challenging combined with all the other tasks of providing for a family. Reading with children and helping them practice specific reading components can dramatically improve their ability to read. Scientific research shows that there are five essential components of reading that children must be taught in order to learn to read. Adults can help children learn to be good readers by systematically practicing these five components:* *Recognizing and using individual sounds to create words, or phonemic awareness. Children need to be taught to hear sounds in words and those words are made up of the smallest parts of sound, or phonemes.*
* *Understanding the relationships between written letters and spoken sounds, or phonics. Children need to be taught the sounds individual printed letters and groups of letters make. Knowing the relationships between letters and sounds helps children to recognize familiar words accurately and automatically, and "decode" new words.*
* *Developing the ability to read a text accurately and quickly, or reading fluency. Children must learn to read words rapidly and accurately in order to understand what is read. When fluent readers read silently, they recognize words automatically. When fluent readers read aloud, they read effortlessly and with expression. Readers who are weak in fluency read slowly, word by word, focusing on decoding words instead of comprehending meaning.*
* *Learning the meaning and pronunciation of words, or vocabulary development. Children need to actively build and expand their knowledge of written and spoken words, what they mean and how they are used.*
* *Acquiring strategies to understand, remember and communicate what is read, or reading comprehension strategies. Children need to be taught comprehension strategies, or the steps good readers use to make sure they understand text. Students who are in control of their own reading comprehension become purposeful, active readers.*

*Reading with children is a proven way to promote early literacy. As most parents know however, it’s not always easy to carve out time each day for reading. Luckily, by putting a few simple strategies into action a parent can make a significant contribution to their child’s reading in as little as* ***20 minutes per day****.* The following ideas are intended to help increase your child’s understanding of reading and writing skills and to develop confidence in learning, while providing parents with a general framework for how to get this all done. Choose two or three of the following strategies and use them throughout the year.1. When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help the child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.
2. When you come to a new word, take this opportunity to talk about it in interesting ways that your child will enjoy and learn from. For example, “This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?”.
3. Read a child’s favorite book over and over again. This will provide positive reinforcement and your child will gain confidence as they are able to successfully recognize words.
4. Choose stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite the child to join in on these parts.
5. Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
6. Read from a variety of children’s books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.
7. Set aside special reading time (and a special reading place). Setting a designated reading time helps in several ways. First, it allows a parent to plan their day more effectively and make time for reading. It also helps the child, especially reluctant readers, to think of reading as a normal scheduled daily activity.
8. Read with emotion. Reading with emotion draws a child into the story in a way that is much more memorable and enjoyable. It also helps them to better understand how words can describe something sad, happy, or exciting.
9. Let your child turn the pages. Besides, being enjoyable, this activity helps more active children stay focused on the book.
10. Take your child to the library to check out books. Most popular Children’s books are available at the local library. This is an affordable way to give your child access to a wide range of books. Taking your child to the library also turns reading into a special occasion.

**AT HOME READING SUPPORT FOR PARENTS****GENERAL READING AND WRITING IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES*** Read to your child
* Model good habits by reading in front of your child
* Check your child’s assignment list daily
* Provide a consistent time to study each day without distractions or media
* Visit the public library frequently
* Join public library after school and/or summer reading programs
* Use reading software or online games or apps, if available
* Provide activities that relate reading and writing to daily life
	+ Have your child write the menu for dinner
	+ Have your child locate letters and words on food containers
	+ Have your child help write a shopping list and have them check off the items on the list as you shop
	+ When traveling, write words in a grid and have your child color in the boxes as they see the words on signs

10 Ways to Motivate Kids to Read + Downloadable Quick Guide5 Tips to Encourage Reading at Home - ED.gov BlogExtension Activities for Bread and Jam for FrancesReading in front of children will encourage your children to read – Indy K12Reading for Meaning with Your Child | Reading Rockets**VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT*** Notice street and store signs together and talk about what they say and mean
* Build vocabulary by having conversations with your child regularly
	+ Talk about the people you see and the types of jobs they have
	+ Talk about the colors and shapes of things you see
	+ Sing songs you both know
	+ Talk about the places you’re going and what you see along the way
	+ Ask your child specific things about their day
* Open-ended topics are especially good for building vocabulary. Have your child answer questions like:
	+ When I grow up I want to be…
	+ My family…
	+ The only thing I could think of was…
	+ One night I woke up so scared that…
	+ I am happiest when…
	+ When I feel angry I…
	+ A trip I’d like to make is…
	+ On the weekend I would like to…
	+ My favorite television show….
* Provide word search or crossword puzzles
* Read a challenging book aloud to your child to give exposure to higher level words
* Label objects around the house with sticky notes
* Describe objects using a simile or metaphor (e.g., the car is as red as an apple, or the clouds are like cotton balls)

**WORD STUDY*** Play word games
	+ Practice word play with your child by saying words and having them say a rhyming word
	+ Practice synonyms and antonyms by saying a word and having your child say a word that means the same or the opposite
	+ Play games such as, “I’m thinking of a word. Who can guess a letter in it?”
	+ Say one letter of the alphabet and have your child name the next three letters in order
	+ Say a letter and have your child name the letter that comes just before that letter
	+ Locate pictures in magazines and practice identifying the beginning and ending sounds of each picture
	+ Play word games such as Hangman® or Scrabble®
* Have your child look in old magazines and cut out pictures of people, places, and things (nouns), and then have them categorize the pictures any way they want
* Say a letter and then have your child name an animal or food that begins with that letter (or, to further challenge the child, try having them name an animal or food that ends with that letter)
* Name an animal, object, or country. Have your child use the last letter of that word and think of a word in the same category that begins with that letter, then take turns with subsequent words
* Circle words in a newspaper or magazine that start with the same letter or are in the same word family (e.g., words ending with –ing or –unk)
* Practice writing spelling words in shaving cream or pudding smeared on a plate
* Color the consonants blue and vowels red
* Have your child post their weekly spelling words on a sticky note and put it on the bathroom mirror

 ***TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH*** |

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| **MESSAGE** **FROM THE INTERVENTION SPECIALIST****Margaret Hallett**mhallett@aeetoledo.org | C:\Users\AEE Principal\Desktop\SPED- 2020-2021\MARGARET HALLET.jpg |
| Greetings Families!Testing season is upon us!!! We will be doing district wide assessments and state wide assessments over the next few months. **What can you do to help your child be successful?** ***The days leading up to the test you can read or have your child read to you, both activates are important***. Students need multiple opportunities to practice their reading skills and learn new vocabulary. When you read to your child you are providing them access to words, or vocabulary, that is above their reading level. The more students read the more words they are exposed to. When we teach we make connections with what we already know to the new idea. The greater the vocabulary, the easier it is for your child to build onto their previous knowledge. Also, when we improve their vocabulary we will improve their writing. To keep your child growing and to push your child to the head of the class have them spend time on IXL. This computer program teaches your child at their level and the more they work the more interventions they are given. See the attached picture that shows how reading improves your child’s standardized testing scores.**ALL CHILDREN CAN LEARN! PARENTAL SUPPORT IS HIGHLY NECESSARY FOR YOUR CHILD’S SUCCESS!!!**Sincerely,Mrs. Margaret Hallett  |
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