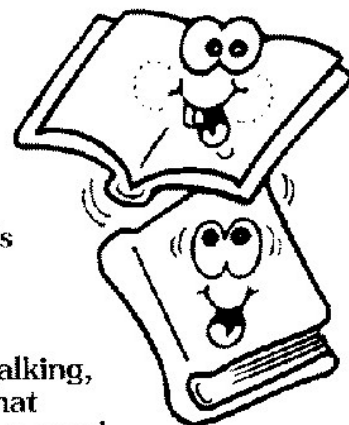


A Letter Home to Parents



Dear Parents,

The reading patterns you establish at home directly influence your child's ability to do well in school. Here are a few suggestions:

LISTEN, TALK AND READ WITH YOUR CHILD

Studies show that most parents spend as little as fifteen minutes a day talking, listening and reading to their children. Yet, it is exactly these activities that encourage a child to read. The very best way to help your child become a good reader is to read to and with them at home. The more children read, or are read to, the better. Books are not the only materials they can read. Encourage your child to read cereal boxes, street signs, catalogs and magazines. Make sure that you take time out each day to read and communicate with your child.

READING AND WRITING

Teaching a child to write helps them to read. Keep pencils, paper, chalk and crayons on hand. Young children can learn to form letters and then words. This gives them the opportunity to recognize the relationship between letters and sounds. Very young children can dictate to you or to an older child. It's also fun to have children write letters to friends and family.

QUIET TIME

The work done in school is typically reinforced with homework. This gives children time to study and practice what they have learned in the classroom. It is very important to set a time for homework and to provide a quiet place where they can do their work. Remember to keep on top of your child's work and stay in touch with your child's teacher.

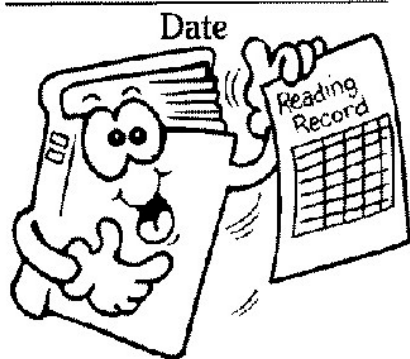
LIMIT TELEVISION

Most children spend hours in front of the television and only minutes a day reading. Set a limit on television watching and replace it with quality reading time. When television is permitted, follow it with family discussions.

Learning doesn't start or end at school. The more we can work together to develop good reading habits, the more successful your child will be.

(Please sign the following reading contract and have your child return it to me on the next school day.)

Sincerely,



I promise to read _____ pages each day.
I will record my progress on my reading record.

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Teacher's Signature