VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VOLUME #153

BOOST YOUR CHILD'S INTEREST IN BOOKS

HELLO PARENTS,

Books provide children with knowledge and information about people, places, cultures and history. They also introduce children to the world of imagination. Reading books enriches children's language and vocabulary, and exposes them to new experiences. Books offer guidance, help clarify values, and encourage readers to reflect on what is right and wrong. They also entertain, make us laugh or cry, and inspire us to think. In this newsletter, we provide you with activities that will encourage your child to read more.

ACTIVITIES
INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)
WORDLESS BOOKS

MATERIALS:

- Wordless books

DIRECTIONS:

- Place books in your child's play area.
- When your child picks a book, sit down with them, and turn the pages together.
- Follow your child's interest.
- Talk about the pictures in the book.
- Make up a simple story for your child to establish a connection between the pictures and your child's daily routines or experiences.

Click here for a list of good books for infants.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)
SET THE STAGE FOR READING

MATERIALS:

- Various props and household objects
- Books

DIRECTIONS:

- Collect several books on one theme. For example: animals in a jungle, beach adventures, etc.
- Create an area which will resemble the setting of your chosen books. For example, when you and your child plan to read books about beach adventures, gather a towel, picnic basket, sunglasses, etc.
- Creating reading settings will help your child enter the imaginary world of books.

Click here for free online books for toddlers.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)
BEING A READING TEACHER

MATERIALS:

- Books

DIRECTIONS:

- Let your child choose a book and read it together.
- Encourage your child to talk about what happened in the book, and ask which part of the book they liked the most.
- Ask your child to pretend to be a teacher and read the book to family members.
- Tell your child that a teacher asks questions to help the students understand the story.
- Your child can ask the audience questions such as: "What do you think will happen next in the story?", "Which character is your favourite and why?", "Did you like the ending?"

Click here to listen to "Where Are You?" by Sarah Williamson.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)
POETRY IN MOTION

MATERIALS:

- A favourite poem

DIRECTIONS:

- Click here to help your child choose a poem or use your child's favourite poem.
- Read the poem slowly to your child, and bring all your dramatic talents to the reading.
- Encourage your child to act the poem out in front of family members.
- Be an enthusiastic audience for your child.

Click here to listen to "Drum Dream Girl" by Margarita Engle.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)
READING JOURNAL

MATERIALS:

- Notebook
- Pen

DIRECTIONS:

- Start a reading journal to keep track of books you have read.
- For each book you read, write down the following:
  - Author
  - Title
  - Illustrator
  - Date I started reading the book
  - Date I finished reading the book
  - My rating (you can rate each book with 1-5 stars based on how much you liked it)
  - What happened in this book (draw or write)
  - Characters
  - Setting
  - Favourite moments
- Each month, count how many books you read and write the number. Do the same at the end of the year.
- Revisit your reading journal often to remember the books you read.

Click here for more journaling ideas.

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Keep a variety of reading materials in the house.
- Make frequent visits to the library and turn them into adventures.
- Read books daily with your younger children and encourage older children to practice reading aloud.
- Show interest in your child's reading.
- Connect events in books with your child's own experiences.