

Centennial ISD 12

CERF/Title I Parent Connection

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Few children learn to love books by themselves. Someone has to lure them into the wonderful world of the written word; someone has to show them the way."

Orville Prescott, *A Father Reads to his children. The Read Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease.

March – Spring Ahead!

In the months ahead it is so important to keep your children reading at home. Although it becomes more challenging once spring is here, keeping the reading habit at home is key to helping them become better readers.

Here are some tips to use with your children while listening to them read:

Before Reading:

*Look at the title and pictures.

*Predict what the story is about.

*Discuss what you already know about the story.

*Read the first page and then ask them to predict what might happen next.

During Reading:

*Encourage your child to picture in his mind what is happening.

*Ask what might happen next in the story.

*Have your child change his or her predictions as the story provides new information.

*Ask how a character might feel.

*Talk about the illustrations.

After Reading:

*Have your child retell the story and create a new ending together.

*Retell the story from another character's point of view.

*Let your child illustrate his

or her favorite part of the story.

*Think about the story together.

Questioning When Reading

*Did this story turn out the way you thought it would? Why or why not?

*What made this book interesting?

*Is the main character someone you would like to have as a friend? Why or why not?

*If you were the author how would you change the ending?

*Would you recommend this book to a friend?

*Have you ever felt like the main character? Describe. Would you like to read more books by this author? Why?

5 Pillars of Reading Instruction **Reading Series Books**

Reading research has identified 5 main areas of reading that are key in reading instruction. These are

1. Phonemic Awareness
2. Phonics
3. Fluency
4. Vocabulary
5. Comprehension

We have highlighted Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency and Vocabulary in the previous newsletters. This month's newsletter provides information about Comprehension instruction.

We hope this information will assist you as parents, as you help your child read.

Children should be encouraged to read Series Books to get them motivated to read. Once they find a series of books that they like, struggling readers become more excited about reading. Series book can help challenged readers comprehend more easily once they recognize familiar words and names. For example, *The Magic Treehouse Books* will excite readers to transition to another book so they can find out what will happen in the next book. Once your children find the series that they like, they are ready to continue reading!

Parents are Partners in Literacy

“We learn
10% of what we read
20% of what we hear
30% of what we see
50% of what we see
and hear
70% of what we
discuss
80% of what we
experience
95% of what we teach
others”
William Glasser

Math and Literacy

Comprehension is key to success in math. If a student doesn't understand what they need to do to solve a word problem, it becomes very difficult to do so successfully. You can use strategies similar to reading strategies to help your child comprehend their math word problems. 1) Ask them what they know about the problem first. 2) Then have them tell you what they think they need to do to solve the problem. 3) When they have solved the problem, ask them

if they have solved any other problem in the same or different way. 4) Help them to see that the way they solved one problem can be used to help them solve another problem. 5) Ask your child to teach you how to solve the next problem. By showing you how to do the problem, they will put their thoughts into words and establish a connection between their old and new learning. 6) Help your child name the math skills they used, such as division, addition or fractions.

Centennial schools uses the Treasures reading curriculum. Parent resources for this curriculum are available online at:
<http://treasures.macmillanmh.com/minnesota>
Select the tab for Families and you will find a wealth of resources to assist you and your child.

Comprehension

Comprehension is the heart of reading. Being able to read the words on paper and make sense of their meaning and then connect what you read about with what you already know—that is real comprehension. Comprehension encompasses all aspects of reading as a child uses phonemic awareness and phonics skills to decode the words on paper; fluency aids a child to read the sentences smoothly; and understanding the vocabulary enables the child to know what the words

mean. All of these skills together provide the base for comprehension. When a child can take the knowledge they already have about a subject, add to and make connections to what they are reading; they build their comprehension skills. Children learn strategies to help strengthen their comprehension skills. These strategies may include summarizing, questioning, using story maps, self monitoring and the use of graphic organizers. Research has shown that using a mix of these strategies has been most effective for improving

comprehension. Children need to become comfortable deciding which is the best strategy to use for various kinds of books. Asking themselves questions about the paragraph may be a useful strategy for a science book while using a story map may be most helpful for a novel. When students can monitor their own understanding they build a comprehension skill that will further life long learning. The tips below are helpful for improving comprehension skills for all students.

Read
with
your
child
every
day!

Spotlight on Fourth Grade: Ways You Can Improve Comprehension At Home

Here are some important ways to help improve your child's comprehension skills at home:

1. *Before they begin an assignment, ask them to tell you, in their own words, what they already know about the subject.*
2. *Before they begin reading, ask them what questions they have about the topic. This will help them look for the answers as they read.*

3. *After a paragraph or a page, ask them to summarize what they just read about in a sentence or two. This helps them find the main ideas.*
4. *When they finish reading, have your child tell you the answers for the questions they had.*
5. *Encourage them to make a connection to something else in their world that relates to what they just read about. Helping to make a*

connection to themselves, their family or friends, another story, another subject or something else they have seen will make the information important to them and makes it more likely they will understand, remember, and use the information.