

Raising Thoughtful Readers

Did you know that teaching children to read begins the day they are born? Yes, those first words you speak to your child begin to lay the foundation for what we want children to become- thoughtful readers! Language is the basis for all reading and the more we have conversation with children in the early years, the better prepared they will be for reading when they come to school.

Ample research shows that those children who have conversations with caring adults about books and the world around them will have the greatest chance of becoming successful readers and more successful in school, overall.

So though it is difficult in these days filled with busy schedules, cell phones, I-Pods, computers, video games and of course, the ever present television, take time to have conversations with your children. Talk about what they are doing, thinking, watching, reading. Use open-ended questions that begin with words like:

What do you think about... ? Where do you think that...?
When... ? How...? Why do think that...?

**Start talking when your children are young and keep the conversation going.
You'll be glad you did.**

Reading for Math?

While parents can usually instill a love for reading in their child, they often are at a loss on how to instill this love for mathematics. Parents' attitudes toward math can have an impact on children's attitudes. Many times parents feel uncomfortable with math because of their own experiences as a child. What better way to have some good experiences than to have them with your child? You can do this by practicing math through literature. Math can come to life for you and your child. Our library here at Elliott is filled with many books related to math. There are counting books, number books, storybooks and concept books that can be used to do math with your child.

Extending math concepts from school to home will extend the idea that math is not just a school subject, but an everyday occurrence. These occurrences could be related to grocery shopping, cooking, traveling, and measuring for a new item in your home, just for a few examples. Reading books related to math can bring these everyday occurrences to life and give you ideas.

Research has shown that children learn mathematical concepts best through language and the use of concrete objects. So pull out the pennies, toothpicks, measuring tapes, cereal and have fun counting, making numbers, and working out word problems with "stuff".

Explore, read and have fun with math.