Assisting Your Child: Literacy

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BEAUMARIS P.S.
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• I’m a parent too!
• A few weeks in...
• You are your child’s first teacher.
• You helped your child learn to walk and talk.
• Each child does this at his/her own rate.
• It is not productive to compare your child with another.
• “Fostering healthy self-esteem in our children is probably our most important task as parents.”
  • Sue Berne, Starting School, page 33
• “…Children need to have interesting and challenging opportunities to develop their brains”

- Marie Clay, 2005, page 6

** We need to make sure that children have lots of experiences to build on. (World knowledge)
• “We do not stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.”
  – Benjamin Franklin
• Talk, talk and more talk.
• Talk with your child: positive, detailed, interesting and informative talk.

• Input and output.
• The importance of a good night’s sleep.
The single most important thing parents can do to help a child’s education is...
Read to them!

- Mem Fox says at least 1000 books before children can start to learn to read!!!!!
- Bedtime story
- Books from school
“Children like their parents to be parents, not teachers. The roles are quite different, and it’s precisely the laid-back, lets-have-fun, relaxed-and-comfortable role of a parent that is so powerful in helping children first to love reading and then to be able to read by themselves.”

Mem Fox, Reading Magic, page 49
Their Prep year is setting up the foundations for future interactions with formalised education.

Marie Clay; 2005; page 8
• We learn best when we are having fun. Learning is easier when we are enjoying what we doing.

• Making mistakes is a natural part of learning. Learners should be encouraged to take risks.
• Students learn Literacy skills every day at school
• Teachers take a mixture of whole class and small teaching groups to help children with learning skills in Reading and Writing.
• Teachers explicitly teach skills in Reading and Writing.
• Children love to do what they see adults doing.
• Importance of men as a role model, especially for boys.
Home Reading Program

- Once your child begins to bring books home from school, please remember:
- Most importantly it is meant to be a fun time and not stressful.
- Share the books with your child by talking about the cover, title, illustrations and personal connections.
- The books should be easy for your child, if not, feel free to read it to them.
• As they progress in their reading, please try not to compare them with other children.
• Learning is not a race.
• There is a danger with pushing children to read harder and more difficult texts.
• When they come to a word they are unsure about you can:
  • Give them a moment to pause and think
  • Prompt by asking what makes sense
  • Ask them to look at the picture
  • Ask them to read on and go back: What makes sense?
  • Ask them to look at the beginning letter/s
AUSVELS FOUNDATION: SPEAKING AND LISTENING

- Interacting in pairs, small group and whole group
- Skills in speaking to different audiences
- Listening to others effectively
- Responding to/discussing books
- Asking relevant questions
- Expanding vocabulary
- Language can be fun e.g. rhymes and chants
AUSVELS FOUNDATION: READING

- Enjoyment of reading
- Print conventions – directionality, letters, words, sentences, punctuation
- Different types of texts and why we use them
- Selecting texts
- Learning about reading strategies
- Discussing and responding to texts
AUSVELS FOUNDATION: WRITING

- Learning that our ideas and thoughts can be written down.
- We can use pictures, letters, words and sentences to communicate.
- Learning about sounds and the letters that represent them.
- Risk taking is important in writing.
- Letter formation.
• “Seek first to understand and then be understood.”
  –Stephen Covey
• Talk with your child’s teacher or the administration at the school if you have any questions or concerns.

• Relax - your child is in excellent hands.
• Enjoy the year!