Assisting Your Child: Literacy

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BEAUMARIS P.S.
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• I’m a parent too!
• 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
“We do not stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.”
– Benjamin Franklin
• “…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)
• 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, let’s-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
• 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
• Replace:

• “Sound it out!” with “What makes sense?”

• Use meaning as the main strategy to work out words.
• “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!