

Quarterly

Site Update

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Raising Readers

Beyond Reading Aloud: Making Connections

Reading aloud to their children is one of the best ways parents can help their child's brain develop. Reading together helps build a child's understanding of the world, knowledge of books and how they work, and important skills like rhyming and playing with words.

Check out the back pages of this year's 2, 3, 4, and 5 year books for information on making important "connections" when reading with children. When you give one of these books, point out the back page material to parents and encourage them to try the suggested activities.

More Read-Aloud Fun from Raising Readers

Reading helps your child's brain grow in more ways than you can count. Here are some fun ways of reading that will help your child's brain to grow even stronger. Remember, there is no right or wrong way to read a book aloud. Just have fun!

HELP BOB
In this story Bob the rooster is just beginning to learn some new animal sounds. Your child may already have many of these sounds and will laugh when Bob tries to say "Cuck-a-doodle-do." Here's a game you and your child will enjoy playing and will help your child to develop good self-esteem: Every time Bob meets a new animal and tries to learn a new sound, ask if that is the right sound. Then, tell your child how proud you are that she knows so many of the sounds and ask if she will help poor Bob learn to.

TALK ABOUT WORDS
Your four-year-old is collecting new words every day. There may be words in this book that he needs help understanding. Or there may be words that you can talk about that give your child more information about the story and his world. For example, you could explain:
Bob is a rooster which is a male chicken. The "girls" in the book are hens or female chickens.
The hen lay eggs in the chicken coop or a small house for chickens. The rooster does the best to make sure so one bothers the hen when they are making their eggs.

The cow in the book chews her cud. When cows chew on their food, they are chewing their food over and over. This helps the cow's stomach and helps them to produce better milk.

You can also explain a big word by using other easier words your child may know. For example, when you read the word terrified, you can say scared or frightened. You can also explain a word by using it out. Act scared when you read the word terrified or speak softly when you use the word whisper.

MAKE SCRAMBLED EGGS
Making connections between things that happen in books and things that happen in your child's world will help your child to grow as a reader. Even though the book doesn't explain that the chickens lay eggs, if you look close you can see eggs hidden in the straw of the chicken coop. You can help your child to make a connection when you take eggs from the refrigerator to cook something. You could explain that the eggs were made by chickens like the ones in the book. Or you could say: "If it were cut for Bob and 'the girls,' we wouldn't have scrambled eggs!" When pouring a glass of milk you can help your child remember that delicious milk comes from cows chewing their cud.

Find more suggestions at www.raisingreaders.org
Happy Reading!

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Please Post/Share

Keep everyone in the loop! Post or share this newsletter with all staff.

30 Month Visit

Every year, Raising Readers' purchases a fixed number of books for all Maine practices. At this time, we are unable to add new sites to the 30 month pilot program but hope to expand it in the future. To make the most of our resources and to ensure we follow the directions of our funder, please do not give books from other age groups at 30 month visits. We appreciate your help!

5 Year Book Inventory

Keep an eye on your book inventory. As parents get their kids ready for school in the fall, you may see an increase in 5-year well child visits at your practice.

A Tip From the AAP Early Literacy Toolkit



“Familiarize yourself with the evidence on the importance of reading, talking, singing, and playing with young children and how practice-based literacy promotion creates and reinforces optimal synapses in children's developing brains. These connections build language, literacy, and social-emotional skills at a critical time in a child's development and secure the bond between parent and child.”

Access the AAP toolkit through our new website at

www.raisingreaders.org/promoting-a-love-of-reading/healthcare-providers/

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