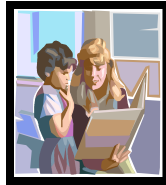


The Reading Corner

“Tips for Parents”

by Sandy Whiteis, Reading Specialist



Parents always want to know what they can do to help enhance their child's reading development. So, I thought it would be beneficial if I included reading tips on a webpage. When I considered what to start with, I decided to talk about how beneficial it is for your child to read comfortable, enjoyable reading material at home, on a daily basis. You are probably wondering what I mean by comfortable, enjoyable material, why it's important, and how to accomplish this?

Why is it important to have your child read comfortable, enjoyable books at home?

Learning to read and developing a love of reading is no simple task. Your child does a lot of hard work at school learning to read. But as your child develops and responds to instruction, reading becomes easier. Visualize yourself doing something you really enjoy doing. After a little practice you start to do it with relative ease and fluency. Likewise, your child will learn to read with ease and love reading if they read comfortable, interesting, enjoyable texts at home. This practice instills a love of reading.

What is comfortable, enjoyable material?

What is comfortable and enjoyable material depends on your child's reading development. This is the rule of thumb we use, which is based on reading research. Out of 100 words of running text your child would know almost every word and work to figure out or decode up to two of the hundred words. If you asked them to read out loud to you, their reading would be smooth and full of expression rather than word by word and choppy.

How can you accomplish this?

It's a wonderful idea to use a variety of ways to encourage your child to read and enjoy reading at home. Your child can read silently and share his/her favorite part of the story with you. You can pair read a story together, taking turns reading every other page. Make the story into a play by taking the parts that have dialogue and read the words in the character's voice. This technique is called Reader's Theater and children love it! Little ones who can't handle print yet can read the pictures to make up a story. You can follow by reading the story to see how the author's story compares with the one your child made up. It is also good practice to allow your child to reread old favorites from time to time. After reading, have your child retell the story in their own words, draw the story in pictures, or do a written retelling of the book along with illustrations.

If you have any questions about reading comfortable,
enjoyable books feel free to email me at
swhiteis@ncusd203.org with the subject field titled Reading
Corner. Look for more tips in October on my web page.
Happy Reading!