

March is Scholastic book fair month for Milestones

We believe that books should be in the hands of children of all ages! This is why we team up with Scholastic Book Fair. With Scholastic, we can offer books at the lowest cost to all our families to help you build a home library for your children and to increase the titles we can put in our classroom's libraries. We are dedicating this month's MLC Minutes to help make reading happen at home.



Everyone benefits from being read to!

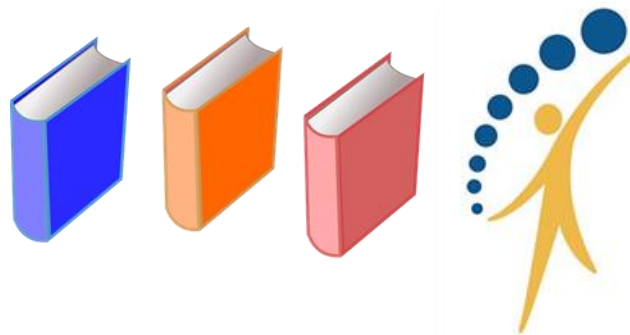
Studies all support reading aloud to a child for a minimum of 20 minutes a day will increase their social emotional bond, their vocabulary, and reading habits. It will foster imaginary play and understanding of the world around them. The ability to read and write are essential to our way of life.

Why does reading to a child matter?

Children who have not been read to daily at home are more likely to be behind entering kindergarten. Despite popular opinion, research proves that they do not “catch up” and are more likely to drop out of school when they are older. Research also shows that children who read at home (compared to those who do not) have heard nearly a million more words by kindergarten.

Build your child's vocabulary.

A way to build your child's vocabulary is to always pre-read a book and look for words you are not sure your child would understand even in context. Never assume your child fully understands the words in a children's book. Make a notation on the page or on the word to remind you to stop and ask your child “What does that mean?” If they do not know, you can explain it to them; or if they assume the wrong definition, you can correct it and read the page again.



MLC March Family Minutes

A resource from our family to yours

How to make a book exciting for 5 days!

Day 1 *Select a book but don't read it!* Just check out the cover and the title together. Talk about what they think the book will be about. Maybe encourage creative thinking about the possible story. Make it exciting to be a mystery. Then tell your child you are saving that book for tomorrow and read different books.

Day 2 *Bring out the same book but only look at the pictures.* Remind your child about what they thought the book might be about. This time tell them "I'm not going to read it tonight but let's just peek at the pictures together and see if we can figure out the story". Talk about the facial expressions of the characters, the art on the pages, are they dark or bright? Where is the story taking place? A forest, a jungle, a castle? Again, put that book away. Let your child know how excited you are getting to find out about the real story. That tomorrow you will get to read it together!

Day 3 *Read the story.* Stopping a few pages to recap what has happened or ask what do you think will happen next?

Day 4 *Read the story again.* Tell your child you were so excited about the book from yesterday you want to read it again! Maybe this time save it for the last book you read to them.

Day 5 *Change the story.* This time when you read the book, change the story, twist the facts or change the ending. Let your child possibly tell what they think happened after the story ended.

Build your child's multiple intelligence by retelling or reenacting a book.

Making memories or other teachable moments with your child is always fun. Using a book, you have spent 5 days reading. You can have fun while building your child's multiple intelligence. A book is a great tool for auditory learning and visual learning but how can you make sure to connect the kinesthetic learner? Those who learn best when using body movement. They need to touch it, feel it be around it. So why not reenact the story with them. Making finger puppets, pretending you are each a story character, or even taking out paper and crayons and retelling the story as your child draws their own pictures. These forms of kinesthetic learning.

Make books powerful.

Read for reward. If your child has a good day at school reward them with an extra book at bedtime, if they get good grades on a report card buy them a book in a series they can collect. Make sure they see you read for pleasure. As a parent you are your child's first teacher, by showing them you take the time to read and enjoy reading they too will want to be like you!



Resources

<https://www.kids-konnect.com/blog/why-story-retelling-helps-kids-learn>

<https://www.whitbyschool.org/passionforlearning/auditory-visual-and-kinesthetic-helping-children-succeed-through-different-learning-styles>

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/babies/play-learning/literacy-reading-stories/reading-storytelling>

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/documents/about/research/readtoyoungchild.pdf>

<https://edsources.org/2015/study-says-reading-aloud-to-children-more-than-talking-builds-literacy/82045#:~:text=Reading%20aloud%20is%20the%20best,studies%20language%20acquisition%20and%20literacy.>

<https://ehe.osu.edu/news/listing/importance-reading-kids-daily-0>