



Wings

A Weekly Newsletter for Families

February: Week 2
Early Literacy

“A book is a dream that you hold in your hand.” – Neil Gaiman



Create a Reader-Friendly Home

A home filled with reading material is a good way to help your kids become enthusiastic readers. Ask your children what kinds of books they want, and if they're too young to know, their teachers or local librarians can make suggestions. Here are some other tips to make your home a haven for reading.

Keep a varied selection – Collect board books and books with mirrors and different textures for babies. Preschoolers enjoy alphabet books, rhyming books and picture books. School-age kids want variety, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry and reference books like dictionaries. And don't forget other types of reading materials, like magazines, postcards, newspapers and comic books.

Keep reading material handy – Keep age-appropriate books and magazines on shelves your kids can reach in their favorite hangouts around the house – including plastic books in the bathtub. Have books next to comfy chairs and sofas where you can cuddle and read after feedings and before naps.

Keep it appealing – Reading areas should have good lighting. Change books for the seasons, rotate different magazines and include books that relate to what kids are interested in or studying in school. Have a CD or tape player handy for audio books.

Encourage kids to create the reading – Set up a writing and art center and encourage kids to make books, posters or collages that they decorate with their own pictures and writing. Kids love to read things they've written themselves and to share their creations with family and friends.

•• INFANT Inspiration

Start Reading Early – Reading aloud to your infant is a wonderful shared activity you can continue for years. It teaches a baby about communication and introduces concepts like numbers, letters, colors and shapes. Reading also builds listening, memory and vocabulary skills. By the time babies reach their first birthday, they've learned all the sounds needed to speak their native language.



•• PRESCHOOL Power

Building Blocks for Reading – Kids who have been read to a lot have the building blocks to learn to read. For example, they know books are read from front to back, pictures should be right-side up, reading is done from left to right, and stories have a beginning, a middle and an ending. Keep reading aloud to your preschooler to develop these literacy skills.

•• TODDLER Tales

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