

Westbrook School



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I have a special program in my classroom that I am very excited about, as it helps each and every child to become a better reader. As you already know, learning to read takes lots of practice, and we can't do it all at school without your help. In just 15 minutes per day, you can help your child by listening to them read to you and by reading to him or her daily.

Here's how my Home Reading Program works:

1. Every Tuesday and Thursday your child will select two books at their independent reading level, and bring it home in his/her homework folder. You will listen to your child read the book to you several times, giving them encouragement and praise. Multiple readings build skills, comprehension, and fluency. You and your child will spend approximately 15 minutes together each night reading the books they chose.

2. Before reading the book, look at the pictures and discuss what the book is about. If your child is a beginning reader, you should ask them if they know any of the words in the book. Always praise their attempts: for example, if the word is "pretty" but they say "park," tell them that both words start with "p" and encourage them to look further into the word and use the letter sounds to try to figure out the word. Children should also be encouraged to use other clues for figuring out words, such as pictures or the meaning of the sentence. Your main job is to ENCOURAGE your new reader and give them the confidence that he/she CAN and DOES read, at whatever level is appropriate. This has to be a positive experience for your child.

3. Write the title of the books on the tracking sheet and sign your name.



4. Return the book in the folder the next day. Your child will then read the book at school with the teacher or another adult. The children get a sticker on their personal incentive chart for being responsible and returning the books. They also get to select two new books to bring home. Sometimes they may bring home the same book, for further practice.

5. Please take very good care of these books.

6. Each time your child has read 20 books and recorded them on their incentive chart, I will give them a prize, as a gift from me to encourage their good reading habits.

HAPPY READING!

Mrs. Donna McCann