



EDUCATIONAL E-NEWS

Raising a Reader

Taken from Military One Source and Kathryn Hoover, Ph.D.

The experience of reading is different for every child. Some children read earlier or later, or more easily and less easily, than others. For most, learning to read takes times, patience and guidance. Although formal reading instruction will take place in your child's school, your role as a parent is important. You can help your child become a reader by providing encouragement and support – not just when your child is learning to read but all through the school years.

The importance of reading aloud –

According to the US Department of Education, reading aloud is the *single most important activity* for building the knowledge that your child needs for everyday success. It's never too early – or too late – to start reading to your child. Even infants enjoy simple stories and looking at pictures.

- **Start early.** The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that parents begin reading to children daily at the age of six months. Babies enjoy hearing their parents' voices even if they don't understand a story. Begin with wipe-clean "board books" with just a few words per page.
- **Read with your child every day.** Reading aloud can be an enjoyable way to calm a child before bedtime. But look for other opportunities to read aloud- at bath time, on the bus, or in the supermarket checkout line.
- **Get your child involved in the story.** Ask him questions about what you're reading, and encourage him to ask his own. "Why is Dora running?" "Where is she going?"
- **Let your child "read" the story to you from the pictures.** Children love "reading" while looking at the pictures of a familiar book and telling the story in their own words. Don't be concerned if your child changes the story – she is just using her imagination, or remembering it the way she wants to remember it.
- **Remember that children, especially very young children, enjoy repetition.** It's fine if your child wants to hear the same book again and again. Children take comfort in what is familiar and learn and notice new things with every reading.
- **Read different kinds of books to your child.** Experiment with books with and without words, fiction and nonfiction, and poems. Young children enjoy learning short verses and completing rhymes that you read aloud.

February- March 2009 Calendar of Events

- 02/20 **CY&T Dance**, 3rd & 4th Grade @ Youth & Teen Oasis (Bldg 692)
- 02/20 **CY&T Junior Olympic Hoop Shoot Comp** @ Youth & Teen Oasis (Bldg 692)
- 02/24 **29Palms Elem** – Operation Hero/Kids Care Club
- 02/24 **TPHS/YVHS: Concert** @ YVHS 7pm
- 02/26 **29Palms Elem** – Science Fair
- 02/26 **29Palms Elem** – Operation Hero/Kids Care Club
- 02/26 **TPHS/YVHS: Concert** @ TPHS, 7pm
- 03/02 **Dr. Seuss's Birthday**
- 03/03 **MUSD Science Fair**
- 03/03 **29Palms Elem** – Operation Hero/Kids Care Club
- 03/03 **MUSD School Board Mtg** @ Friendly Hills Elementary, 7:00 pm
- 03/04 **29Palms Elem** – PTO Meeting
- 03/04 **LCMS** – Parent Visitation Day
- 03/04 **TPHS** – Swimming vs Citrus Hill
- 03/05 **29Palms Elem** – Operation Hero/Kids Care Club
- 03/06 **CY&T Dance**, 5th & 6th Graders only, @ Youth & Teen Oasis (Bldg 692), 1830-2030
- 03/06 **TPHS** – Softball @ PS Tourney
- 03/08 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS** - Turn the clocks ahead an hour
- 03/09 **Oasis Elem** – Kindergarten Awards
- 03/10 **TPHS** – Softball @ PS, B-ball at Mesa Grande and Golf vs. Coachella
- 03/10 **29Palms Elem** – Operation Hero/Kids Care Club

*Do what you have, with what you have,
where you are. – Theodore Roosevelt*

Helping your child make reading a habit

- *Limit your child's "Screen time."* The American Academy of Pediatrics advises against allowing children less than two years of age to watch TV or use computers, and it encourages parents to limit the "screen time" of older children. Spending too much time in front of a TV, computer, or video games can keep children from developing an interest in healthy activities, such as reading and sports.
- *Go to the Library often.* Find out if your library has story hours or other events, such as "visits" from favorite picture-book characters, or special guests such as authors or illustrators of children's books.
- *Create a space for your child's books.* Set aside a special place for your child's books somewhere in your home. You can easily make a bookcase or shelf by turning a plastic crate or heavy cardboard box on its side.
- *Keep books in different places in your home and take some with you when you leave.* You can keep books in the bathroom, in a basket by the living-room couch, and in the kitchen, so your child can look at them while you cook.
- *Give your child books of their own.* Give your child a special book on each birthday or holiday, or to celebrate a special event.
- *Shop at used-book stores and yard sales.* You don't have to spend a lot of money for your child to have books at home. You can buy inexpensive books at yard sales, library book sales, online auctions, and used-book stores.
- *Have book exchanges with other parents.* Ask families to bring a few books, and swap them for other families' books. The local school may sponsor a book swap activity: you might want to suggest this to the school administration or the PTO.

When children start reading on their own

- *Respect your child's choice of books.* Try not to push a child to read at a higher level than one feels comfortable. She isn't being "lazy" when she chooses a book you think is too easy for her. At this stage, she's learning by practice and repetition.
- *Share the reading.* If your child struggles with a book, try taking turns, with each of you reading a paragraph at a time. Your child may have more energy for the extra challenge if you break the reading into smaller units.
- *Praise your child's efforts.* Remember that reading can be a huge challenge even after a child has learned to read, and most children need a lot of encouragement to stick with it. You might say, "That was a tough word you figured out!" or "Great! You read almost the whole page by yourself!"
- *Help your child see the words all around them.* Encourage your child to read signs on the street, at the grocery store, or at the doctor's office. Think of activities that require reading but not necessarily from children's books. For example, you can spend time together identifying trees or birds using a pocket reference, cooking from a recipe, or following directions to create an easy craft project.
- *Continue to read aloud.* Your child will still enjoy listening even though they are beginning to read on their own. Read books they're interested in but aren't ready for, and you will both enjoy the companionship and shared experience of reading aloud.

From the Bulletin Board



❖ ARMED SERVICES YMCA ESSAY CONTEST 2008

The Armed Services YMCA Essay Contest 2008 seeks students who can write about MY MILITARY HERO for its annual contest. Grades 1st through 8th grade should submit entries of at least 100 words but no more than 300. The essay can focus on any person who is/has served in the military. For more information visit ASYMCA office bldg. 696 or phone (760) 830-7481, contact Jodi Bennett or Anita Neu-Fultz. **Entry Date: March 20, 2009**

❖ BERNARD CURTIS BROWN II MEMORIAL NASA SPACE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

About Space Camp

Space Camp is a place where kids come together for a journey they will never forget. The Space Camp is an EIGHTDAY PROGRAM that shows young men and women firsthand what it takes to be an astronaut. Activities include simulated Space Shuttle missions, training simulators, rocket building and launches, scientific experiments, and lectures of the past, present, and future of space exploration. Space Camp is offered in Huntsville, Alabama, and takes a unique, fun and hands-on approach to learning outside the classroom - and students leave with a greater appreciation for school and their studies. Each child learns about astronauts and space travel, but they also experience something even more important: developing bonds of friendship.

This is a microcosm of the life of a military child. They travel, they learn and they quickly bond into friendships that many times last for life. For more detailed information about Space Camp, visit their Web site at

www.spacecamp.com.

Scholarship Information

The Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp Scholarship is funded by the Military Child Education Coalition™ (MCECTM). The scholarship covers full tuition to include: Round trip transportation (from student's home base to Space Camp), Meals, Lodging, Program Materials.

Each student applicant must:

Be a child of an active duty military parent or activated Guard or Reservist, be enrolled in grades 6 through 9, Submit handwritten essay which includes why he or she should be selected, evidence of patriotism, future goals, community service, and "after camp" intentions and submit two letters of recommendation with contact information. *Complete and submit the application by the deadline. Go to www.militarychild.org/files/pdfs/SpaceCamp_Application.pdf for an application.

❖ UNITED THROUGH READING

With the help from the nonprofit organization United Through Reading, deployed service members can make DVDs or videotapes of themselves reading aloud to send home. This means a child at home can still feel the connection and pleasure of being read to even when a parent (or older brother or sister) is away. Go to www.unitedthroughreading.org for more information about the program.

❖ DEPLOYING THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

Is there any chance someone other than your spouse will care for your children, even temporarily, while you are gone? **If so, please get a specific education power of attorney and file it with the school district.** Taking care of this before you leave, can reduce problems for your children left behind.

❖ SOAR

Check out the new website www.soarathome.com. This site will allow parents to administer standardized tests aligned to the area you will be going. This will give you an idea about how well your child is prepared for the new system and offers tutorials to help support weak areas. Also, you can take your results from the Princeton Review to the new school to help them make placement decisions according to your children's abilities and needs. It is a wonderful FREE resource for military families.