

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

October 2008

Middletown Public Schools

SHORT NOTES



No more nagging!

If you're tired of repeating yourself to your youngster, try this. Write your most frequent requests ("Put away your shoes," "Turn down the music") on paper slips, and store them in a cup. The next time your child leaves his shoes out, hand him a note instead of saying anything. You'll capture his attention and keep him focused.

Home project

Help your youngster turn playtime into project time. She'll practice planning and organization skills. For example, she could build a castle. Encourage her to draw a picture first and then list the materials she needs. She might use a cardboard box, foil for the towers, and craft sticks for a drawbridge.

Buddy up

Does your child receive special education services at school? Extend his learning at home by asking an older student to mentor him. If he has speech therapy, they might take turns reading lines from stories to improve pronunciation. A youngster in occupational therapy could strengthen hand muscles by working jigsaw puzzles or stacking blocks.

Worth quoting

"Success doesn't come to you ... you go to it." *Marva Collins*

JUST FOR FUN

Teacher: Why does the Statue of Liberty stand in New York Harbor?

Student: Because it can't sit down.



Falling for reading

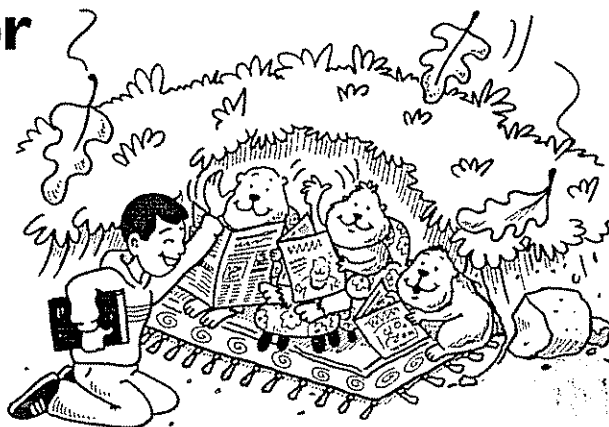
Cozy fall evenings are perfect for curling up with a book. As the cooler weather and shorter days bring your child inside earlier, take advantage of the time to get him hooked on reading.

Story hour

Read aloud to your youngster. Try choosing a book that's slightly harder than one he can read on his own. The more complex plots and bigger words will stretch his comprehension skills and vocabulary. Plus, getting a sneak peek at what older kids are reading is a real motivator.

A family habit

Promote regular reading with a "What We're Reading" bulletin board. Provide sticky notes, and have each family member post a note to let everyone know what's on his nightstand. When others



are reading, your child will want to read also! *Tip:* Encourage visitors (grandparents, friends) to contribute to the board.

Pass the poetry

Sit in a circle and pass around a volume of poetry. Each person opens the book, reads aloud the first poem he sees, and passes it on. Suggest that your youngster copy and collect favorite poems in a binder to make his own poetry collection.

Note: Guarantee your child a steady supply of fresh reading material by taking him to the library often. ♥

Pal around

What creates bonds between friends? Sharing interests and helping each other! Try these ideas:

★ Help your youngster build on something she has in common with a classmate. If they both like cheerleading, your child might invite her to attend a local competition. Or if they enjoy scrapbooking, they could sign up for a community center class together.

★ Show your child how to give support when a friend needs her. Did her pal lose a pet? She could create a sympathy card on the computer. Is her friend upset about a low test grade? Suggest that your youngster offer to study with her for the next exam. ♥

