
A Letter to Families About the Library Area

Dear Families,

The Library area is a very important part of our classroom and your child's life. It is where children gain the foundation for reading and writing. It is also a place where children can relax and enjoy the wonderful world of children's books.

We encourage children to look at books, listen to recorded stories, retell stories, and scribble and write throughout the day. Sometimes children dictate stories that we write down and bind as books.

We read stories with the children every day. Reading introduces new ideas, helps children learn how to handle problems, and encourages them to love books. As children listen to us read, their own reading skills begin to develop. Here are some of the things we do as we read:

- We look at pictures and ask, "What do you see?"
- We encourage children to predict what will happen next. For example, we ask, "What do you suppose will happen now?"
- We encourage children to repeat words, rhymes, and phrases they are learning.

What You Can Do at Home

Research has shown us the important role families play in helping children learn to read and write. The single most important thing you can do is to read to your child every day. When your child sits next to you as you read, he or she begins to connect books with good feelings. Here are a few more things you can do with your child:

- Encourage your child to talk about the stories you read together.
- Use prompts such as "I wonder what will happen next" or "I wonder why. . ."
- Try to relate the story to something in your child's life ("That dog looks a lot like Grandpa's.").
- Visit the library and check out books that interest your child.
- Give your child paper and pencils, pens, or markers. Let him or her experiment with writing. Don't worry if your child's writing isn't perfect!

If you'd like some help with choosing books or guidance about how to read with your child, please talk with us. To keep your child's home library stocked, you can borrow books from the public library. When you take time to read to your child every day, you are doing the very best thing to help your child become a successful reader.