

March Newsletter

All year we have been giving you strategies to help your child become a better reader. But merely saying the words that are written do not make your child a reader. Also, understanding what is written and not written is another important part. Has your child ever read a page, gotten to the bottom and said: "I don't have the foggiest idea what I read?" It's probably not that he didn't understand the words. He simply didn't absorb them. Here are some dos and don'ts that will help you help your child turn what he reads into gold by understanding and retaining what he reads:



Before Your Child Starts Reading:

- ✿ **Do scan the story** together for difficult words.
- ✿ **Do review the meanings** of these words with your child.
- ✿ **Do discuss the general** theme of the story.
- ✿ **Do have our child relate** the story to her own experience. Is it like anything she has done or seen?
- ✿ **Do read other things** besides school materials. School materials are tied to the pressure of doing well in school.
- ✿ **Don't make your child** "spell out" words he doesn't know. The spelling of r-u-m-o-r won't reveal its meaning.
- ✿ **Don't show surprise** at your child's lack of knowledge or ability. Embarrassment does not promote learning.

While Your Child is Reading:

- 📖 **Do suggest reading silently**, before reading aloud.
- 📖 **Do take turns reading** with your child.
- 📖 **Do determine the setting** for the story- the time and place. If it's a real place, help locate it on a map or globe.
- 📖 **Do remind her of decoding** strategies for any unknown words.
- 📖 **Do predict the outcome.** (Ask:"What do you think will happen next?") This helps the brain look for patterns.
- 📖 **Don't pressure your child** into reading for you. Reading should be a pleasurable.
- 📖 **Don't interrupt often** or your child will lose track of the story.
- 📖 **Don't correct words** unless not doing so would affect the meaning of the story.