

Friday, September 14, 2007

Dear Parents:

Our Read Aloud book this week was Mice Squeak, We Speak. Our math link book was Let's Play. The Big & Little books were My Five Senses, and We Are The Kinderfriends.

Please take time to listen to your child "read" either of his or her little books to you. Be sure to sign and return reading logs. A reading log is a list of stories that each child has "read" and **feels** that he or she has mastered. Reading logs allow a child's success as a reader to be shared. When a child can read a story, have him/her read it to you, another adult, or older brother or sister. Then have the child write the title of the story in the reading log and sign his or her name on top. *This writing will be at the developmental level of the child.* The adult or Designated Reader who heard the story will also sign his or her name. This will allow me to keep track of the titles that the child has read. It is OK for the Designated Reader to read other books to the child also.

An important goal of the program is to have the children believe that they are readers. **Children are not expected to read each word on each page verbatim.** Depending on the ability of the individual child, there will be great variability in what each child can "read". Some children will be able to memorize the words, phrase, or sentence on each page. Others will be able to paraphrase a version of the text on the page. Still other children will give lengthy descriptions of the pictures on the pages. **All of these behaviors are considered reading.**

Please return the reading logs to school **each Friday**. We will have a celebration for all students who return their reading logs. I will send home new reading logs with each Friday's note. Extra reading logs are always available in my classroom.

Besides having your child read to you, it is important to read TO your child regularly. Did you know that the American Academy of Pediatrics encourages pediatricians to prescribe reading activities at well-child visits and strongly recommends daily reading to children from six months of age onwards. Studies have consistently shown that children who are read to from an early age are more successful in learning to read.

Reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading!

We are now making weekly visits to the school library. If you have signed and returned your child's permission form, s/he was be able to check out a book from the library to bring home. S/he can keep the book for one week at which time s/he can return it and check out another book for another week. Past experience has shown us that it is a good idea to keep library books away from younger siblings, pets and food. This is a wonderful chance to teach your child about personal responsibility.