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Education
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6 Strategies Parents Can Use With Their Language-Challenged Child

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1. Take the Mystery Away. Teach the student about language and language strategies. Help the student understand his own language strengths and challenges. The process is sometimes called demystification - taking the mystery away.
2. Frequent Breaks. Students who have receptive language challenges may use up a lot of energy listening and therefore tire easily. Consequently, short, high structured work times with frequent breaks or quiet periods may be helpful.
3. Encourage Elaboration. Teachers and parents can encourage both oral and written elaboration by asking questions that can not be answered with simple one word answers such as “good,” “yes,” or “no.” For example instead of asking a child to describe one thing he liked about his school day and why. A teacher might require that students respond to questions in complete sentences and on certain days require that the sentences have at least one adjective and adverb. A teacher (or parent) might tell his student (or child) to watch his favorite television show (pre-approved for acceptability) and then be prepared to summarize the storyline, tell the main idea of the show, rate the episode on a scale of 1 to 10, and give a reason for the rating.
4. Rhyming for Reading. Books by Dr. Seuss, such as *Green Eggs and Ham*, *The Cat in the Hat and One Fish* are helpful for enhancing early phonological processing (e.g., rhyming) in young children.
5. The Dolch Word List. This list contains the 220 most frequently found words in books that children read. Mastering the Dolch words provides children with a good base for beginning reading. Many of the words cannot be sounded out because they do not follow regular decoding rules. Stahl and Nagy (2006) recommend teaching these and other high frequency words both in isolation and in context. (See the Dolch Word List below)
6. Individual Evaluations. Many students with language challenges benefit from individual evaluation and remediation by highly qualified professionals.

Dolch Word List

Preprimer

A, and, away, big, blue, can, come, down, find, for, funny, go, help, here, I, in, is, it, little, look, make, me, my, not, one, play, red, run, said, see, the, three, to, two, up, we, where, yellow, and you.

Primer

All, am, are, at, ate, be, black, brown, but, came, did, do, eat, four, get, good, have, he, into, like, must, new, no, now, on, our, out, please, pretty, ran, ride, saw, say, she, so, soon, that, there, they, this, too, under, want, was, well, went, what, white, who, will, with, and yes.

First

After, again, an, any, as, by, could, every, fly, from, give, going, had, has, her, him, his, how, jump, just, know, let, live, may, of, old, once, open, over, put, round, some, stop, take, thank, them, then,

think, walk, warm, were, and when.

Second

Always, around, because, been, before, best, both, buy, call, cold, does, don't, fast, first, five, found, gave, goes, green, its, made, many, off, or, pull, read, right, sing, sit, sleep, tell, their, these, those, upon, us, use, very, wash, which, why, wish, work, would, write, and your.

Third

About, better, bring, carry, clean, cut, done, draw, drink, eight, fall, far, full, got, grow, hold, hot, hurt, if, keep, kind, laugh, light, long, much, myself, never, only, own, pick, seven, shall, show, six, small, start, ten, today, together, and try.

Summertime Reading

by: Mary Jacob

Summertime reading is such an important thing for all children to participate in. Research has repeatedly shown us that children that read in the summertime, perform at higher levels than their non summertime reading peers. Most public libraries offer reading programs you can participate in. They typically start signing children up during the months of May and June. Also, don't forget children enjoy reading magazines, newspapers, pen pal letters and comics.

In addition to the above, try creating something special for your child, like their own special card catalog rating system. Get an index card box, index cards and dividers. Have your child write a little blurb on each item they read and rate it. Let your child create their own rating system. Some might want to use a four star system, while more creative readers might want to use their favorite color to least favorite color system or favorite character system.

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The idea is to let them create it and show ownership of it. These boxes become a useful resource tool to remind them of certain books and/or articles they've read, but it will also be rewarding to watch it fill up.

If you have a reluctant reader, try looking for easy to read books or articles on items of interest. I can remember my preteen daughter reading an article about a home remedy for hair removal from a teen magazine and next thing I knew she was combining used coffee grinds with some other items and spreading it all over her legs. I didn't have time to be upset with the mess she made as I was thrilled she actually read and comprehended the entire article.

Parents might also want to use some sort of reward system. If you use a reward system, make sure you chose a reward that is meaningful to your child. Does your child hang out all day long playing the latest Playstation game? If this is the case, you might want to tell them that for every book you read and tell me about, you can play on your Play-

station for a specific amount of time.

Try not to use healthy things as rewards. Visits to the parks, grandparents, museums, activities that involve exercise or healthy eating should not be used as rewards. However, a trip to McDonald's or a special desert could be used as a reward.

If you have a young child or a non reader, it's just as important to read to them. This will help them learn new vocabulary and open their minds up to new things. Most children love to be read to and especially enjoy their parents reading to them.

Finally, if you have a child that has trouble reading, try reading with him. You read a couple of sentences and then let him read some. Try to figure out the right amount to avoid frustration. Most importantly, promote summertime reading with your children. You will see the success in their school work during the school year.

Why is Parental Involvement in School so Important?

Parental involvement in education is important because it makes a world of difference in children's success in school and in life. Plus, it benefits children at all grade levels.

The evidence is in from many research studies showing that when parents get involved in education, their children:

- Get better grades and test scores.
- Have better attendance at school.
- Complete more homework.
- Are better behaved and have more positive attitudes.
- Take higher-level courses in high school.
- Graduate from high school at higher rates.
- Receive higher college-entrance test scores.
- Are more likely to go on to higher education.
- Have increased lifetime earnings.

In fact, most of the differences in the average state-by-state performance of eighth-graders on math achievement test scores can be attributed to just three parental practices: making sure their children attend school regularly, encouraging their children to read at home, and turning off the television set.

It's not just students that benefit from parental involvement in education - so do parents. They gain a greater appreciation of their role in their children's education; a better understanding of schools, teaching, and learning activities in general; a stronger social network; and even a desire to continue their own education. Plus, when teachers receive strong support from involved parents, they raise their expectations for both students and parents.

Jefferson Parish Public School System

East Bank Parents Advisory Council

invites you to attend

3rd Annual Parent (and Teacher) Participation in Leadership in Education Exposition (A.P.P.L.E. Expo)

Saturday, April 14, 2007

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

T.H. Harris Middle School

911 Elise Avenue, Metairie

(Corner of West Metairie Avenue & Elise)

This expo is open and free to all parents, teachers, concerned community members of all parishes.

For additional information, please contact Patricia McWhorter-Broussard, EBPAAC President at 504-834-6170 or email at patmcwbr@hotmail.com.