



Dear Parents

This is a whole class target to encourage vocabulary development as it is so important for children to be engaged in meaningful conversations with others. Children need to exchange ideas about their feelings and thoughts. Children are often imitators of what they see and hear, and they need to experience reading and writing behaviours that will encourage their interest in and enjoyment of reading and writing.

Among the first words that children recognize or read are those found on fast food signs, the names of their favourite foods and favourite toys, the names they use for their parents, and their own name? To encourage reading, children need to be exposed to print every day; during this daily reading, print concepts are introduced that are necessary for the preschooler to learn to read. These concepts are understood when a child can:

- Show where the front of a book is ;
- Realize that there are words on a page;
- Point to the words as they are read;
- Understand that one reads from left to right;
- Show where the story starts on a page; and
- Show the beginning and ending of a word.

After reading a story to a child give them the opportunity to talk about the story. They can tell you their favourite part of the story; you might also encourage them to retell the story in their own words. Children enjoy rereading the books that have been read to them. They will pull out the same book to be read again and again. They may even “read” their books by looking at the pictures and telling the story. This pretend reading, known as book talk, provides another brick in the foundation of their reading pathway.

Book talks, story retellings, singing songs, and noticing rhymes in words are ways that children like to play with words. A child is ready to begin formal reading instruction when she is recognizing symbols, demonstrating vocabulary knowledge by using book talk, and identifying word patterns with rhymes.

To encourage book discussion and the children’s vocabulary we have a lending library in the hall and children can borrow a book from Nursery. Children may on occasions bring in a favourite story book to share with the class.