



Read together. Read Forever.

Slackwood's Literacy Newsletter

Welcome to Dog-Ears, Slackwood's new Family Literacy Newsletter! In each issue you will find a variety of ideas for bringing literacy home, as well as book selections, tips and resources for helping you and your child connect through reading!

Our mission is simple:
Read together. Read forever.

In this issue of Dog-Ears, we focus on the importance of reading aloud and ways to incorporate it into your family's daily routine. We hope that you enjoy it as much as we do!

Reading Aloud

Reading aloud is just that--reading out loud with your child in an interactive way. **It is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading.**

You are your child's first and most important teacher. What you do at home will help your child become a successful, confident reader.

Great Books for Reading Aloud

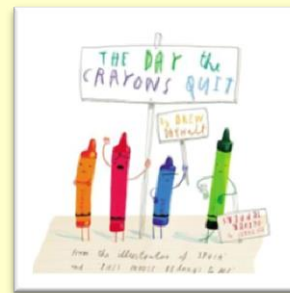
These books are available here at Slackwood's library, your local library or book store:

- *A Child's First Book of Nursery Rhymes*
- *Time for Sleep* by Mem Fox
- *Night Noises* by Mem Fox
- *Sleepy Bears* by Mem Fox

Family Supper Book Club

A recipe for success!

We often get so busy with the daily grind that it is hard to remember that it is quality family time, not quantity, that matters most. Family supper book club is an easy and meaningful way to connect as a family over dinner. This month's suggested book is The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Dewart.



- Set a date once a month for a family supper book club.
- Prior to dinner, read the suggested book or a book that you choose as a family.
- Plan an easy meal that you can prepare together. (For example, if you read The Day The Crayons Quit, prepare tri-colored pasta or pizza with different colored vegetables for toppings.
- During supper, focus on having a conversation with your child. You can use the dialogic questions on the next page as a guide. Take turns talking and listening.

Keep an eye out for a new book and meal suggestion each month!

Dialogic Reading: Your Child the Storyteller

A back and forth conversation between you and your child while reading aloud is called *Dialogic Reading*. It is important for your child to become the teller of the story, and you the listener. Children learn most from books when they are actively involved.

Here are examples of the types of questions that you can ask your child while reading aloud. **Choose only one or two at a time, keeping the reading lively and fun.**

Completion Questions give children an opportunity to practice rhyming and to notice rhyming words. Leave a blank at the end of a sentence and have your child fill it in. These are perfect for nursery rhymes and rhyming stories. You might say, "I think I'd be a glossy cat. A little plump but not too _____," letting the child fill in the blank with the word *fat*.

Recall Questions help children to understand the problem, solution and events in a story they have already read or are familiar with, like fairy tales. You might say, "Can you tell me what happened to the little blue engine in this story?"

Open-Ended Prompts help increase your child's attention to detail. Look for books that have rich, detailed illustrations. While looking at a page in a book that your child is familiar with, you might say, "Tell me what's happening in this picture." or, "What's going on in this part?"

"Wh"-Questions teach children new vocabulary. They usually begin with **what, where, when, why, and how**. Like open-ended prompts, wh- prompts focus on the pictures in books. You might say, "What's the name of this?" while pointing to an object in the book then add a bit to it. For instance: "Yes, that is a moon, a bright full moon in the sky."

Distancing Questions help your child make connections between books and the real world. For example, while looking at a book with a picture of animals on a farm, you might say something like, "Remember when we went to the animal park last week. Which of these animals did we see there?"

Distancing and recall questions can be trickier for children than completion, open-ended, and "wh"-prompts. Listening and encouraging their thoughts is an important part of the interaction.

The most important thing about reading aloud with your child is the joy it brings to both of you!

Resources

Family literacy website: www.readaloud.org

Handouts: If you would like to receive more information on the topics listed below, please e-mail us.

- Reading Aloud with your child
- Reading Tips specific to your child's age/grade
- Book lists for read alouds

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3 Ways to Read Aloud

- Read the pictures
- Read the Words
- Retell the story

Make Reading Aloud Part of Your Daily Routine

- Before or After meals
- At Bedtime
- In the car

Make Reading Aloud Fun

- Use funny voices
- Make up sound effects