

Project Administrator
Gary Steinert
Regional Supt. of Schools

Project Coordinator
Pat Rhodes

Parent Educators
Janie Atilano
Sterling Dist.#5

Sue Austin
Sterling Dist.#5

Linda Berentes
East Coloma Dist.#12
Riverdale Dist.#14
Montmorency Dist.#145

Dawn Brown
Rock Falls Dist.#13

Sandy Davis
Rock Falls Dist.#13

Mary Etnyre
Sterling Dist.#5

Laura McCullough
Prophetstown-Lyndon-
Tampico Dist.#3
Morrison Dist. #6

Kathy Wolf
Erie Dist.#1

Resource Center Coor.
Debbie Klein

Resource Centers and Lending Libraries

Erie Elementary
Prophetstown Elementary
Tampico Elementary
Wallace Education Center
Southside School
Merrill School

Administered By
Whiteside County Regional
Superintendent's Office

Funded By
State Board of Education
Erie Dist. #1
Prophetstown Dist.#3
Sterling Dist.#5
Morrison Dist.#6
East Coloma Dist.#12
Rock Falls Dist.#13
Riverdale Dist.#14
Montmorency Dist.#145

Whiteside County PARENTS AS TEACHERS

1001 West 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

A Whiteside County Regional Office of Education Publication August 2001

Office Phone 625-1495

Library Warm Line 625-6331

From the Coordinator

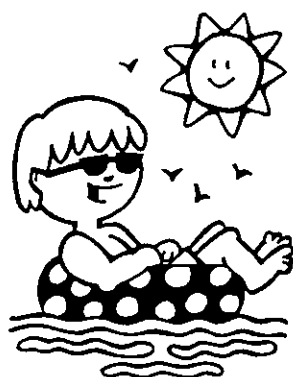
PARK IT WITH A BOOK parent/child activities were well attended in June and July. We had a great time reading and playing together. Thanks to all who came; it was so good to see you. There are no activities scheduled in August.

Your parent educator will be calling you later this month to schedule a visit in September. If you have a change of address or phone number since May, please call me, at 815/625-1495, or your parent educator.

Our toy lending libraries will reopen in September, and parent/child activities will be scheduled in the schools. Please check next month's newsletter for dates, times, and locations.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Pat



Reading Predictable Books

Books with words or actions that appear over and over again help youngsters predict or tell what happens next. These are *predictable* books.

What You'll Need

*Books with repeated phrases, questions, or rhymes like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr.

What to Do

The first activities in the list below work well with younger children. As your child grows older, the later activities let her do more.

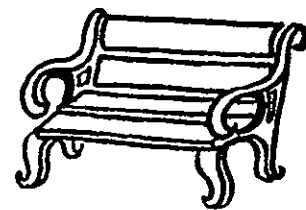
1. Read "predictable" books to you child. Teach her to hear and name repeating words, colors, numbers, letters, animals, objects, and daily life activities. Once she gets to know a book, she may pretend to read it herself.
2. Pick a story that has repeated phrases or a poem that you and your child like. Together, take on the voices of the characters. Your child will learn the repeated part and have fun joining in with you each time it shows up in the story.
3. Read books that give hints about what might happen next. Such books will have your child lifting flaps, looking through cut-out holes in the pages, reading small pictures that stand for words, and searching for many other clues. Get excited along with your child as she tries to find out what happens next.
4. When reading predictable books, ask your child what she thinks will happen. Help her to find picture clues, mention specific words or phrases, and connect the story to something that happens in real life. These are important skills for a reader to learn.

Helping Your Child Become a Reader

U. S. Department of Education

The Park Bench School of Parenting

Years ago parents got most of their child-rearing information from each other. Articles in the Park Bench School of Parenting are written to revive that custom. If you belong to a parents' group, use these articles as discussion starters. Or ask a friend what he or she would do in a similar situation. Listen to different viewpoints and decide for yourself what's best for your family.



Getting Kids to Clean Up After Themselves

How do early childhood teachers do it anyway? Are they issued magic wands or what? You've seen it happen. The classroom can be a total mess after a busy morning of play, and somehow they get the kids to clean it up.

While we can't tell you where to buy a magic wand for home use, we can let you in on some trade secrets:

1. **In the classroom, teachers label storage space.** Containers, shelves, cupboards—you name it and the teachers have probably stuck a picture on it. Why? Because cleaning up is easier for kids when they can see where to put their playthings. A toy truck gets parked in front of a picture of a toy truck. Wooden beads go in a tub marked with a string of beads.

What's more, there's an added bonus academically. When kids put real objects next to pictures, they're doing more than being neat. They're practicing the early reading and math skill of matching.

At home, have your child help you draw or cut out pictures to label the shelves, boxes, and drawers where she keeps her belongings.

2. **Teachers suggest categories.** Being told to "Clean up" is overwhelming to young children. Teachers simplify the task by helping kids concentrate on putting away one group of items at a time. "Let's put all the crayons away first and then all the scissors."

While children are busily searching for the crayons among scraps of paper and scissors, they're strengthening another thinking skill: the ability to classify and create groupings. Putting together a group of items involves some complicated thought processes, including reasoning, discriminating and analyzing.

At home, suggest that your child first pick up all his toy cars. Then see if he can think up another category. Socks? Books?

3. **Teachers help kids remember the steps of cleaning up.** Kids are still learning that it's wise to do things in a certain order. That's why teachers take time to go over the steps of various tasks frequently. "The bucket goes under the water table first," they caution. "Then you pull out the plug and let the water drain into it..."

When someone helps children figure out a logical order in which to do things, they're supporting skills in prediction and in understanding cause and effect.

At home, you can help your child think of the steps to a task. "Put the placemats on the table, and then get the dishes out." Or, to an older child, "First pick up the Legos, then run the vacuum cleaner."

It takes time to help kids learn about cleaning up. It means breaking down tasks that have become second nature to us as adults, so that children's thinking about order is supported. Although it takes time, chances are that the long-term results will be worth it. Better, in fact, than if you'd simply waved that magic wand.

T H E

Well-Centered CHILD

Question Time!

Those first few days of school can raise a lot of questions in any parent's mind:

First the questions:

- Will my child make friends?
- Do other peoples' kids wake up hours ahead of time on the first day of school, too?
- Will my child miss the teacher he had last year?
- Will he come to like his new teacher just as much as the old one? Will I?
- Does a good breakfast really make a difference in how well kids do at school?
- Will my child be unable to eat much on the first day?
- Is it better not to force the issue of eating breakfast on the first day?
- Should I make her leave her Happy Meal toy collection at home?
- Do teachers appreciate it if parents introduce themselves early in the school year?
- Should I tactfully tell the teachers my name again when I see them the following week?
- Is it truly necessary to label every little item of outdoor clothing and do it all year long?
- And does the school really need to have all those forms turned in?
- Is going to the open house and the parents' meetings worth it?
- Should I check my child's back-pack for messages, forms, artwork and homework every single day?
- Come to think of it, did I buy her a cool-enough back pack?
- Will my child eventually learn the other kids' names?
- If I don't wear the points down, is it okay to try out my child's brand-new, good-smelling crayons after he's gone to bed?
- If they just play at school, will they really learn anything?
- Are there ways to be involved at my child's school even though I'm at work all day?
- Are other people's kids acting as rowdy and obnoxious as mine while waiting for the first day?
- Will they all settle down in a few weeks?
- Will my child miss me?
- Will I miss my child?
- Will we like having time away from each other?
- Will my child need a little extra one-on-one time with me for a while?
- No matter how old my child is, will this year be an important one in his or her life?

And now for the answer:

yes!

National Smile Week

It's never too soon to get ready for
National Smile Week. It's the second
week of August. Start practicing today!



Gary J. Steinert
Regional Supt. of Schools
1001 West 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Morrison, IL 61270
Permit No. 93