

CERF/Title I Parent Connection



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January – New Beginnings

“The fluent reader sounds good, is easy to listen to, and reads with enough expression to help the listener understand and enjoy the material.”

~Charles Clark
 “Building Fluency: Do It Right and Do It Well”
 (1999)

The New Year brings the opportunity for a new beginning. We make resolutions to improve our lives and the lives of those around us. Balancing the challenges of home and work can be enriching and frustrating as we try to do it all. Setting goals that are reasonable and attainable can give us the incentive to actually reach those goals. Here’s some suggestions for setting reading goals for your children:

- Kindergarten—Read aloud to your child every night for 10 minutes. Have your child retell the story in their own words.
- 1st grade—Listen to your

child read a take-home story to you. These books are at your child’s reading level and are usually sent home by the classroom teacher.

- 2nd & 3rd grade—Listen to your child read from a book of their choosing for at least 10-15 minutes nightly.
- 4th & 5th grade—Encourage your child to read to you or a younger sibling. This can help build their oral expression and fluency. Ask them to summarize the main ideas

- All children—encourage them to write something using letter sounds, words or pictures every day. This may be a thank-you note, a reminder note, their schedule for the day, a list of materials they need for school the next day, a to-do list for home, etc. Writing something that is meaningful to them will help improve their reading and writing skills in many ways.

5 Pillars of Reading Instruction—Fluency

Reading research has identified 5 main areas of reading that are key in reading instruction. These are:

1. Phonemic Awareness—the sounds that letters and words make
2. Phonics—the connection between letters and sounds
3. Fluency—the ability to recognize and read words instantly

4. Vocabulary
 5. Comprehension
- We have highlighted Phonemic Awareness and Phonics in the previous newsletters. This month’s newsletter provides information about Fluency instruction. We hope this information will assist you as parents, as you help your child read.

Centennial schools uses the Treasures reading curriculum. Parent resources for the Treasures curriculum are available online at <http://treasures.macmillanmh.com/minnesota>

Select the tab for Families and you will find a wealth of resources to assist you and your child.

**Read
with
your
child
every
day!**

Parents are Partners in Literacy

“The goal in fluency instruction is not fast reading, (although that happens to be a by-product of the instruction), but fluent meaning-filled reading.”

~International Reading Association

Math and Literacy

We usually think of literacy as relating to reading- so what does reading have to do with math. Think for a minute about all the words that you use in math—add, subtract, divide, multiply, fraction, half, percent, etc. If a child can't read and understand what these words are, their ability to understand and do math will also suffer. Just as a child needs to practice reading words to improve their reading skills, they need to practice math words in improve their

math skills. You can improve your child's reading and math skills by helping them to understand these math words as you use them in daily home activities. For example -

Adding—We have 3 boys and 2 girls in our family, how many all together? $3 + 2 = 5$

Subtracting—We had 5 hot dogs and 3 have been eaten, how many hot dogs are left? $5 - 3 = 2$

Multiply—There are 4 people in our family. If we each read 4 books, how many

books will we read all together?

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

Division—How can we divide these 12 cookies evenly between 4 children?

$$12 \text{ divided by } 4 = 3$$

Fractions—Name the fraction when you cut an apple in 2 pieces— $1/2$, 4 pieces— $1/4$, 8 pieces $1/8$, etc.

Money—Practice counting on with coins. Pretend to buy items and make change.

Many games use math skills for counting as well as practicing with money. These are all wonderful ways to reinforce math and reading skills at home.

Fluency

Reading fluency is the ability to instantly recognize words, letters or sounds as you read. A fluent reader can read quickly, accurately and with expression. It is important for a child to be able to read fluently so they can turn their attention to understanding what they read, instead of simply figuring out the words. If a child expends all his/her energy simply figuring out what each word is, they

lose that critical piece of understanding or comprehending what they have just read. Parents and teachers see this often when a child reads very slowly and with such great effort that by the time they finish reading the sentence, they have forgotten what the sentence is about. Being able to turn our attention to the meaning instead of simply recognizing the word is a critical skill needed to become a strong reader. Like

any skill, practice is what helps us move to an automatic response whether it's learning to skate or read. Fluency instruction centers around providing students with opportunities to read at their independent level; reading with 95% accuracy or more. This means the child can read the vast majority of the book without error or assistance.

“Listening to good models of fluent reading, students can learn how a reader's voice can help text make sense.”

~MR Kuhn & SA Stahl, “Fluency: A Review of Development and Remedial Practices.” (2003)

Spotlight on Second Grade: Ways You Can Develop Fluency At Home

Here are some important ways to help improve your child's fluency skills at home:

- 1) *Help your child choose “just right” books where they can accurately read 95% of the words.*
- 2) *Encourage your child to read aloud daily to you, a younger sibling, grandparents, friend or*

neighbor.

- 3) *Read aloud to your child using expression, paying particular attention to the punctuation marks. This will help your child see the differences our voice makes when we read sentences that have a question mark, exclamation mark, period or a comma.*

- 4) *Let your child see you reading.*

When you read, you show them that reading is an important part of your life that provides you with knowledge and enjoyment.

- 5) *Remind your child to PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE reading every day!!!*