



DID YOU KNOW?

Babies and young children **need to hear plenty of language** for brain development.

80% of a child's brain growth is complete by age 3, and most of that time is spent with their families.

The more experience young children have with language, **the more their brains will grow.**

Children who are talked to and read to by their families when they are young do better in school, read better, graduate more often and are more likely to be employed as adults.

PARENT TIPS FOR BOOK SHARING

Talk to your child. Listen to your child:

Encourage your child to tell you stories and ask questions

Share nursery rhymes, sing songs

Share books with your child:

Snuggle up and get close

Ask questions

Talk about the pictures and new words

Share the book repeatedly

Let your child take the lead

Remember It Is Okay...

To read only part of the book

If you don't read well

If you have an accent or don't speak English, you can read in your home language

If your child wants to hold the book and read it to you

If you only talk about the pictures

Dear Parents,

We are excited to let you know that your child's classroom will be participating in the Raising A Reader (RAR) program! Since 1999, RAR is a national nonprofit organization that has helped families successfully build and sustain literacy routines in their homes. RAR's mission is to engage parents and caregivers in a routine of book sharing with their children from birth through age eight to foster healthy brain development, healthy family relationships, a love of reading, and the literacy skills that are critical for school success.

How Does the Raising A Reader Program Work?

Your child will be sent home with a bright red RAR bag filled with four (4) age appropriate, high-quality, and engaging picture books. The red book bags with the books inside of them will get rotated on a weekly basis. Parents/caregivers will be provided with the necessary support, training, strategies, and tools to effectively share books with their children. Families will also be connected with their local public and school libraries. At the end of the program, children will receive a blue library book bag to keep so that they can continue the practice of borrowing books and build a lifelong habit of reading.

Parents Play a KEY Role in Raising A Reader!

If you are like most parents, you want your child to be well prepared for success in school. You know that learning to read is one of the most important skills that your child will need to succeed. What you may not know is how important, but easy, your role is. You don't need fancy toys or expensive computer games. Your mind, your voice, your ideas, your time, and your love are what your children need to reach their potential. Check out the sidebar on the left for some tips about how you can begin the amazing and transformative experience of sharing books with your child.

Want More Information About Raising A Reader?

Visit the website: www.raisingareader.org