

Dear Parent,

We know you are interested in your child having a successful school experience. You want your child to develop a love for reading that will last throughout his or her life. You would like to see your child's vocabulary and listening skills improve dramatically.

A reading motivation program is in place at Ruth Borchardt Elementary that we hope will encourage the further development of your child's love of reading. The success your child has in this program hinges on the active participation of you and your family.

The program is called **S.H.A.R.E. (Students Having a Read-aloud Experience)**. The following is an explanation of the program.

GUIDELINES:

1. Each student, grades K through 5, will be encouraged to **READ OR LISTEN to 10 minutes of ORAL/OUT-LOUD reading EACH DAY. One person must be reading aloud.** Credit will be given for **10 minutes only per day, no longer.** The purpose of the program is to help develop a consistent, daily read-aloud experience.
2. Upon completion of the 10-minute requirement, a **monthly calendar, dated and signed by the parent,** will be returned to the classroom teacher **at the end of each month.**
3. **Start date: September 1, 2008. End date: March 31, 2009.**

REWARDS:

The student will be rewarded upon completion of each of four levels of achievement:
100 minutes 500 minutes 1,000 minutes 2,000 minutes

WHAT TO READ:

The purpose of the program is to develop an enjoyment of all types of reading materials. There are no restrictions on type or reading level of materials chosen to read. Choose materials that the reader and listener enjoy. Some suggestions for reading materials are school and public library books, supplemental readers, magazines, newspapers, books traded with friends, etc.

READERS AND LISTENERS:

Parents are encouraged to participate in the read-**aloud** time with their children and to encourage a quality read-aloud time with other family members and friends. The shared experience may be remembered with pleasure for a lifetime.

The success of your child's reading experience depends a great deal on your help and participation. Your child's teacher and librarian appreciate and thank you for your support of your child's becoming a life-long learner and reader.

Sincerely yours,

Betty King
Principal

Elaine Blair
Librarian

(See reversed side)

Tips on Reading Aloud

1. Choose from a variety of reading materials which both the reader and listener would enjoy.
2. It is not necessary to stop *during the reading* to define unfamiliar words or to question for understanding. You may choose to read the story straight through for enjoyment and then ask or answer any questions after the read-**aloud** time.
3. Vary the inflection of your voice while reading. Enjoy yourself! Try different voices for different characters.
4. Younger children can enjoy longer stories as well as picture books. If there are few pictures, encourage younger listeners to make up their own pictures in their mind as the story is read.

Special encouragement for the 4th and 5th grade readers...

5. Some suggestions for older readers...
 - reading **aloud** to younger brothers and sisters
 - reading **aloud** from the newspaper or a book to mom while she's cooking dinner
 - reading **aloud** to friends or family members on the phone (with parent permission, of course, and parents may sign-off on the S.H.A.R.E. coupon)
5. Tips for parents who speak English as a second language: The public library has a broad selection of "books on tape" for loan. The parent and child can follow along with the tape.

HOW READING ALOUD MAY HELP YOUR CHILD

"Reading aloud is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading." "Becoming a Nation of Readers" U.S. Commission on Reading Report

1. Studies show that an increase of 10 minutes of reading **aloud** per day will improve standardized test scores measurably.
2. Research has proven that consistent reading **aloud**...
 - conditions the child's brain to associate reading with pleasure
 - creates background knowledge
 - provides a reading role model
 - reading is an accrued skill. Those who read the most read the best.
 - increases the love for reading and appreciation of literature
 - increases vocabulary
 - improves reading comprehension
 - improves listening skills
 - stimulates imagination
 - expands reading interests
 - improves language skills
3. Research has shown that one of the most important first steps in encouraging students to read is for teachers or parents to read stories with their children. Reading **aloud** to children has been considered by many researchers to be the **single most important activity in developing a child's literacy**, and it has been repeatedly shown that higher adult interactions with students lead to enhanced student literacy skills.

TV viewing tip: When your child views age-level appropriate show, program the television screen to scroll captions across the bottom of the screen. The child will be hearing and seeing the words at the same time.