Title: “Reading Together: A Guide for Parents”

Simple ways to build a love of stories at home.

Byline: “By Kathleen Quinn”

Children who are read to have a thirst for learning, knowledge and are more creative and imaginative. It also helps children with problem solving abilities and develops valuable cognitive skills.

In addition, children that are read to or share books with their parents have a close bond that is shared and trusted.

Building vocabulary and imagination is essential to aiding in cognitive development.

Children that are readers and share their love for reading feel understood and seen.

Setting up a cozy routine.

A regular routine is something that provides structure and consistency. Children see book time as something to look forward to.

A regular time can be any time you choose, mornings, afternoon, after dinner or at bedtime.

Soft light, cozy pillows and blankets make the experience more enjoyable.

Make sure you turn off cell phones, tv’s and other distractions for a more enjoyable experience.

Let your child help pick out their favorite book, even if it’s on repeat.

Reading tips by age

Toddlers (2–4):

Short books, big pictures

Point to pictures and name things.

Early readers (5–7):

Take turns reading pages.

Ask simple “what do you think will happen?” questions.

Older kids (8+):

Talk about feelings and choices in the story.

Connecting the story to real life.

Questions to spark conversation.

“What was your favorite part?”

“Which character did you like best? Why?”

“Did anything in the story surprise you?”

“What would you do if you were this character?”

Simple activities after reading.

Draw your favorite scene.

Act out a part of the story.

Write a new ending together.

Make a “feelings chart” for the main character.

I know that life gets busy for parents, caregivers and guardians and often times life gets in the way but taking a moment (10-15 minutes) out of your day, allows you to bond, decompress and enjoy the moment with your child that will leave you with lasting memories.

storiesforakinderworld.com

Please join our mailing list for a list of more resources, updates and new stories