NEEDS FOR READING READINESS

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We cannot deny the fact that the majority of a child’s day must be filled with play, real-life activities, and physical exploration. Although child’s learning comes naturally as he plays and experiences life, there are some skills like reading that must be eventually being taught. As a teacher, how would you know if a child is ready to read?

Reading readiness is a stage where a child shows different signs of being ready to learn how to read. It is the point where a child is gearing up to become a reader. If he plunged into reading without the preliminary activities that make for an effective beginning, the child’s eagerness to learn how to read may intensify his feeling of frustration.

There are five skills a child should master before you begin formal reading instruction:

1. Print Awareness is the ability to understand that the print on paper represents words that carry meaning and relate to spoken language. Holding a book the correct way; reading from left to right; or differentiating the front from the back of a book are some ways to develop print awareness.

2. Letter knowledge is the ability of a child to recognize the letters of the alphabet and letter names and sounds that corresponds to each letter. It is the ability to recognize all the letters of the alphabet, in lowercase form as well as the uppercase. Start by singing the “Alphabet Song”; play with alphabet toys such as magnetic letters, puzzles and alphabet floor mats; play letter and sound games.
3. Phonological Awareness is the ability to hear and identify various sounds in spoken words or the sound structure of words. Developing this skill is a great help for children to understand how sounds combine to make words. There are fun ways to promote phonological awareness: read a lot of nursery rhymes and rhyming picture books; sing nursery rhymes and playing rhyming games.

4. Listening comprehension is the ability to understand the meaning of words heard and to relate to them to their experience and to their environment. A child with good listening comprehension has a wide range of vocabulary and can easily comprehend written words and heard words around him. To develop this skill, read aloud daily and make it an enjoyable shared time. Read books that are in line with the child’s interests and use creative illustrations to ignite their imagination. In this manner, he begins to realize that there is a benefit to learning to read and believe that reading is fun process.

5. Motivation to read is a child’s eagerness and willingness to learn how to read. Create a routine that helps arouse and develop you’re a child’s interest in reading. Choose more engaging books and make reading interactive. You can use variety of genres in the fiction and non-fiction stories then encourage imaginative play and storytelling.

Almost all children need a reading readiness program. The character and length of this program may vary with the individual child and with the material and methods employed. While flexibility is an important characteristic of a sound program, certain general features remain constant. Among these are: adjusting the child to school situation; providing experiences which will ensure the meaningfulness of reading; arousing and encouraging interest in reading and the desire to read and introducing him to the essential reading techniques.
References:

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