

The Alcott Elementary School

Kindergarten

Language Arts Activities for Parents and Children

Encourage Literacy

- Set aside time each day to Drop Everything and Read (DEAR).
- Create a writer's space with various pencils, pens, markers, and paper.
- Offer a wide range of books (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, picture books, books on tape, magazines).
- Provide different types of writing paper and materials (blank cards, unlined/lined paper, stationary).

Word Study and Vocabulary

- Assist your child in obtaining a library card.
- Select books with few words per page, nonfiction, nursery rhymes and poetry.
- Read stop signs, store signs, etc. as you walk and drive around town.
- Match oral letters to printed letters.
- Read and recite nursery rhymes and poems together.
- Play rhyming games.
- Play I-spy games, i.e., "I spy three things in the kitchen that begins with p".
- Play homemade Concentration (matching) games. Match upper case letters with lower case letters (D with d) or a letter with a picture (d with dog).
- Encourage children to learn new words and then use them regularly in conversation.

Reading Comprehension

- Make connections between the events in a story and your real life experiences.
- Read aloud to your child from a variety of genres (fiction, nonfiction, poetry).
- Model your thinking when reading aloud. Include predicting and asking questions.
- Describe the pictures the words make in your mind. Tell how the story makes you feel.
- Have your child listen to books on tape.
- Help your child recognize different forms of print (newspapers, poems, storybooks).
- Read a simple story and ask your child to describe the story in sequence or retell the story.
- Give your child one or two step chores or directions.

Writing

- Assist your child with writing a simple thank you note or birthday invitations.
- Provide a whiteboard/chalkboard for your child to write the letters of the alphabet.
- Encourage your child to draw pictures of a "small moment" in his/her life. What is happening in the picture?
- Encourage your child to tell a story over many pages (first this happened, then this) to encourage sequencing.
- Encourage your child to talk about his/her day at school or a family outing to the beach or park.

Speaking

- Ask your child, in the evening, what was the best, the most interesting, the worst part of the day.
- Model correct grammar.
- Use words like before, after, and then to explain a sequence of events.
- Use rich vocabulary when speaking with your child and point out multiple meanings of words.

*** If watching TV together, make it an active activity by engaging in conversation about the program in the same way you would talk about a book you were reading aloud.***