Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Today we are beginning a daily home reading program in your child’s classroom. Your child should have brought home:

- A large plastic bag with a book inside of it
- A reading record sheet

Each night, please read the book with and/or to your child. If your child can, have him/her read the book to you. Some of the books will be familiar to your child, some of them will not be. Please keep this in mind when reading with your child.

When you are done reading, make an entry on the Reading Record Sheet. When you have completed 14 nights of reading (i.e. both sides of the Reading Record Sheet), return it to school. Your child will then get a small “prize” from the “prize box” (Loonie store items). ***Note that the “Reading Record Sheet” has space to record the book your child brings home from school as well as others read from your home collection or the library. ***

Each school morning, send the book bag, with the book inside of it, back to school with your child. Your child will then choose a new book to take home for the following night.

Here are some tips when reading with your child:

- Let him/her hold the book and turn the pages.
- You could read the whole book, your child could read the whole book (only if s/he feels comfortable, can and wants to), or you could take turns reading a page each.
- Make this an enjoyable and fun time, preferably at the same time each night (i.e. just before bed, after dinner, etc.)
- Draw your child’s attention to words on the page and/or individual letters
- If you are focusing on letters, choose one letter as a focus for the evening. Talk about the name of the letter and the sound that the letter makes. If that letter is in your child’s or a family member’s name, talk about this – it will add additional meaning to the experience. Ask your child to find all of those letters on the page.
• Let your child “read” from the pictures – if s/he seems to be “making up” the stories as s/he goes along, don’t worry, just let him/her enjoy the experience. This is an important beginning reading strategy.

• To help your child learn a story so s/he develops confidence in his/herself as a reader, read a sentence and have your child repeat after you. With repeated readings, your child will probably memorize the book. Once the book is memorized, ask your child to find individual words such as “at”, “and”, “or” and “but”. This will help your child develop reading readiness skills.

• **Note:** IF YOUR CHILD SHOWS ANY INDICATION THAT THE READING TIME IS NOT ENJOYABLE (i.e. “I don’t want to…” etc.) PLEASE STOP AND TRY AGAIN ANOTHER TIME. If your child continually does not seem to enjoy the reading time, please see me and we will talk about ways to help make it fun. This time should NOT be a chore to be “gotten over with” – it should always be a time children (and parents) look forward to. We want to develop a lifelong love of reading and it needs to start now! 😊

Note that I would love to continue to add to our class collection of books. I have some uncolored copies in the classroom. If you would like to help with coloring, please see me and I will give you some so we can provide the children with more reading choices.

Please approach me if you have questions – I’d be happy to answer! Have fun!

Sincerely,

Gayle Hernandez