

HELPING YOUR CHILD READ AT HOME

A child that scores in the top 90% in school reads almost as much in one day outside of school as a child that scores in the low 10% in school reads in an entire year. Pretty amazing statistic! Two challenges that we face with our children are: motivating a child to read that doesn't want to read, or having an enthusiastic reader that may not think deeply about what they read.

Here are some tips that you may find useful:

KEEP UP A NIGHTLY READING ROUTINE -- WHETHER THEY PROTEST OR NOT.

PRE K:	10-15 MINUTES PER NIGHT
KINDERGARTEN:	10-15 MINUTES PER NIGHT
GRADE 1:	10-15 MINUTES PER NIGHT
GRADE 2:	20 MINUTES PER NIGHT
GRADE 3:	30 MINUTES PER NIGHT
GRADE 4:	45 MINUTES PER NIGHT
GRADE 5:	1 HOUR PER NIGHT

- Join in during the reading time (get a blanket, snuggle up and both of you read a book).
- Shared Reading – read a page and then have your child read a page (or switch off paragraphs).
- Stop and talk often about the book – try to stay on topic, but relate it to your life or their life; discuss the images in your mind that you might see -- make sure they are “getting it”.
- If your child prefers to read independently, read the book before they do, and then when you are together (in the car, making dinner) have a casual book discussion. Your enthusiasm about the book will be contagious!
- Explore favorite books together – try to find a series that catches their interest. There is a fine line between too hard or easy and too boring. Your child's teacher, or the school librarian, can offer recommendations for books your child's level.
- **Intermediate Grades: Sign your child's nightly reading log so that we too can celebrate their reading!**
- Read a great book aloud -- make them fall in love with a story (they could read a bit to you if it is not too hard.)
- Openly share your real-world reading with your family. Discuss magazine or newspaper articles or good books, to show that you are all reading.

Turn off the TV and video games. They will get all of the technology skills that they need in school. Of all the things in a busy Featherbed child's life, TV and video games should be on the bottom of the list – or better yet only allowed on weekends when it is raining.