



The Mustang Messenger

Empowering Every Learner

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Question and Answer

Q: My fifth grader enjoys listening to me read aloud. Is she too old for this?

A: Definitely not! Children of all ages benefit when they are read to. You can select books and stories slightly above your child's reading level. As you read with feeling, she'll learn new concepts and words. Talk about the story and explain anything confusing. Most importantly, enjoy the time together!

Encourage the Writing Process Step by Step

When authors write a story, they rarely finish their work in one sitting. Good writing involves a process. Suggest that your child:

1. **Brainstorm.** It can be fun to think of things to write about. Sit down with your child and listen to his ideas.
2. **Draft.** At first, your child can just write, without focusing on mistakes. Cheer him on while he works.
3. **Revise.** Show interest when your child reads his story aloud. Ask questions if you're confused so your child can fix his writing.
4. **Edit.** Have your child check for spelling and punctuation errors. Read the final product together and celebrate his success!

Source: Dr. W.D. Lance, "Teaching Writing: The Elementary Years," "Teaching Writing: The Elementary Years," Global TCK Care & Education, niswc.com/writing_process_steps.

Games Can Teach New Vocabulary While They Entertain

Improve your child's reading skills by building his vocabulary! With an increased knowledge of words and their meanings, your child will understand more as he reads.

To make learning new words fun, play:

- **Word of the Week.** Take turns choosing a challenging word from your child's vocabulary list. Use it often. Keep track of how many times you and your child use it in a sentence during the week.
- **Word Origins.** Find a book about the origins of common words. For instance, *salary* comes from *salarium*, the Latin word for *salt*. That's because Roman soldiers were paid in salt. Name some words and possible origins. Who can guess the correct origin?

Source: "Helping Your Child at Home with Vocabulary Building," Child Development Institute, niswc.com/play_vocabulary.

Family Resource Center

Our school offers many literacy and some math resources such as games and flashcards in our Title I Family Resource Center. Your child's teacher may send a note home indicating specific areas where your child may benefit from items in the center. You may visit the resource center, which is located in our school's library, during the day to check out items. In addition, we have items displayed in the cases outside the office which you can check out. Please contact our Title I Literacy Coach, Mrs. Bieber, at bieberm@carliseschools.org if you would like more information.

Equity Statement

The Carlisle Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, religion or handicap in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by applicable law.

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