

October's Family Reading Workshop



Families learn how to support their child's reading acquisition!

We'd like to thank all the families who came out to participate in our Family Reading Workshop. We appreciate the Walnut Grove Elementary School community who made it possible for us to offer two sessions of the workshop back-to-back. Thanks to our wonderful and talented family liaisons, we offered English, and four different languages during our multi-language session. If you would like to peruse the resources from the workshop, feel free to find the materials at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OB_gD1O9RrPEpVGtXdEZmY0ISbFE

We look forward to engaging with families around Reading and Writing in the future and hope to see many of you back with us the next time around.

4 tips to help kids grab a book instead of a gadget!

Let's face it, our kids are natives to technology many of us only dreamed of when we were their age. Between tablets, smartphones, and computers, books sometimes have a tough job appealing to a generation accustomed to a fast moving, flashy gadget. However, there are still ways to get kids to fall in love with reading and build those critically important comprehension skills. Here are some tips to unplug your young ones, get them to pick up books, build their background knowledge, and connect to the texts they read!

1. Introduce kids to books about things they enjoy. For instance, if your child dreams of becoming a veterinarian, find ten books on animals that your child will enjoy. Look for nonfiction books about the job, and animals of all sorts, as well as fiction books with the profession highlighted.
2. Share books from your childhood. Kids love to learn about how things were in "the old days." Share books you loved from your childhood, or perhaps those your parents loved. For added bonding time, reread them along side your child and talk about the stories.
3. Get kids their own library card. Children love to see their name on things, it makes them feel grown-up. A library card of their own, with their name on it is official and can be a great motivational tool.
4. Do you always have your phone in your hand, or your computer screen up? When was the last time you sat down to read a book, magazine, or news article made of paper? Young children will often mimic the adults in their life. If you model the habits you would like your child to display, chances are your child will pick it up by watching you.



LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IN ELLS:
A LEARNING TRAJECTORY TO HELP YOU
SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S ENGLISH
ACQUISITION



ELPAC TESTING BEGINS

English Language Development in ELLs.

Knowing where our kids are, and where they need to get to, in order to be completely fluent.

All new learners of English progress through the same stages of language acquisition. However, the length of time each student spends at a particular stage may vary greatly. The chart below summarizes the five stages of language acquisition for *any second language learner*, as well as some appropriate prompts and sample questions to use for each stage of second language acquisition. You can engage with your children by knowing these stages and the appropriate prompts. Asking the tiered questions at the corresponding stage supports English Language Learners moving forward. To ensure that children are being challenged and pushed to the next level, it is important to, once in a while, ask questions from the next level. Although there may be an approximate time frame for each stage of language acquisition, the length of time students spend at each level will be as varied as your children. You can refer to this as a simple guide to better understand the trajectory of your child and how to support them, wherever they might be.

If you would like to acquire dual-language books to read with your child, here are some suggestions gathered by Good Reads: https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/25481.Dual_Language_Children_s_Books

Reading books in English with your children will help them acquire the language and be more engaged with a language they may not hear at home. Having the book in English and your home language can help both understanding and the transfer of language as well. What's most important is to encourage your child's bilingualism/multilingualism with books, and conversation. Model being a language learner: Ask questions, discuss the differences in languages, discover cognates, and share a love of the languages with your family. Eventually, your child will become fluent!

ELPAC (see page 3)	Stage	Characteristics The student:	Approximate Time Frame	Prompts
Emerging: Enter and Progress through Preproduction, Exit at Early Production Level	Preproduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has minimal comprehension Does not verbalize Nods "Yes" and "No." Draws and points 	0 - 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show me... Circle the... Where is ...? Who has...?
Expanding (2 Levels) Progress through Early Production and exit at Intermediate Fluency This can be a two-year process.	Early Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has limited comprehension Produces 1 or 2 word responses Uses key words and familiar phrases Uses present-tense verbs 	6 months - 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes/no questions Either/or questions Who...? What...? How many...?
	Speech Emergence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has good comprehension Can produce simple sentences Makes grammar and pronunciation errors Frequently misunderstands jokes 	1 - 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why...? How...? Explain... Questions requiring phrase or short-sentence answers
Bridging (2 Levels) Progress through Intermediate Fluency and exit Advanced Fluency	Intermediate Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has excellent comprehension Makes few grammatical errors 	3 - 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What would happen if...? Why do you think...? Questions requiring more than a sentence response
	Advanced Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a near-native level of speech 	5 - 7 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide if... Retell... Summarize...

ELPAC Begins in PUSD

Beginning February 1, 2018, the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) is the new assessment that is used to determine the English Language Proficiency (ELP) of students arriving as English Language Learners (ELLs) to Pleasanton Unified School District.

The ELPAC is replacing the CELDT in order to align ELL testing with the English Language Development Standards of 2012. Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing are the four domains that the ELPAC assesses from grades K-12.

As students acquire English, they will move through three growth areas: Emerging, Expanding, and Bridging. Parents can refer to Page 2 to better understand the trajectory of English Language Development (ELD). The left column shows the ELPAC categories matched with each stage of growth. This could help you better understand where your child places and how to support their growth.

If you are eager to find and support your child's English language skills, other resources can be found at the follow websites:

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/z/4729>

<https://busyteacher.org/17878-esl-listening-activities-7-types.html>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/using-context-clues-understand-word-meanings>

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/ed/7d/28/ed7d28662ff2e0c567cc47cf45ed570a.jpg>

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/families>

Ways to help your children prepare to test their best:

While it is true that no single test gives a complete picture of a child, it is important to that every child do their absolute best when being tested for academic growth. Many of the standardized tests children take follow them throughout their academic careers as they learn and grow. While we can work to support them academically all year long, preparing a child for the day of the test should be considered as much a part of the support we give them, as in learning the material to be tested.

SLEEP

Go to bed early. This will allow their body to get the correct amount of rest needed to perform the following day. Have them eat a wholesome light dinner, so they aren't up all night with indigestion.

Wake up Early

Wake them up nice and early. They have to be on time to do well on tests or exams. If you set the alarm to wake them so they have enough time to prepare and take some time during the morning of the exam, they will be more likely to start the exam with a clear head and stress free, (or as stress free as anyone can expect them to be!)

Eat a Healthy Breakfast

Keep away from heavy saturated foods such as margarine and foods with high sugar content. Try to have them eat a balanced meal of eggs, toast, or cereal and some fruit. Make sure they are refreshed by drinking a glass of milk, juice or water. Ensuring they have had the correct foods will keep their energy and body functioning until the exam is over. Don't let them overeat, being too full will mean their stomach will hurt and they may feel nervous.

Practice Mindfulness

Learning how to use breathing to calm ourselves and focus our thoughts and energy is a huge help in relieving stress and jitters. For more tips on Mindfulness, go here:

<https://educationsvoice.wordpress.com/2017/01/28/mindfulness-in-the-classroom-test-taking-tips/>