

Ever Wonder How Children Learn To Read? *Wonder No More!*



The Delaware Department of Education/State Improvement Grant and the Parent Information Center in partnership with the Reading Assist Institute and READ Aloud Delaware developed a series of parent information sessions that focus on the components and characteristics of childhood literacy.

If you are interested in scheduling or attending these sessions, contact Ivy U. Bonk, Project Coordinator at 245-0479 or, by email at sig@hughes.net. **You can view the calendar for the sessions at www.picofdel.org**

The sessions are divided into three educational levels: *Preschool, Elementary, and Secondary.*

PRESCHOOL (Supports Early Steps to Literacy Research)

The Key Components of Communication in Young Children: This session focuses on the nuts and bolts of oral language. Parents will learn when and how language is acquired. Parents are given tips and techniques that promote language development. Each participant is shown activities that create a literacy-rich environment.

How to Foster Early Reading Skills: In this session, Parents learn about letter and sound recognition. Parents are exposed to popular children's literature and learn how to select developmentally and culturally appropriate books for their children.

Early Writing Skills: Children often draw, scribble and write before they read. In this session, parents learn to help their child develop fine motor skills essential to early writing skills.

ELEMENTARY (Supports Reading First and Building Blocks for Reading Research)

Building Blocks for Reading Success: Alphabet Knowledge and Phonemic Awareness: The most common cause of reading difficulties in children is the inability to understand that each letter in a word represents a sound and that those sounds must be blended together to form a word. Parents can provide critical support in the development of these all-important foundation skills. Games and activities to promote alphabetic and phonemic awareness make for an interactive session.

Building Blocks for Reading Success: Phonics and Fluency: Understanding phonics helps young readers and writers connect letters they see to sounds they hear. The ability to do this quickly and accurately is necessary to build the level of fluency necessary to make sense of text. In this session parents are instructed how to help their children strengthen word attack and reading fluency.

Building Blocks for Reading Success: Vocabulary & Comprehension through Interactive Reading: Knowing the meaning of words or having the skills to figure out the meaning of words in sentences and paragraphs is a critical part of reading comprehension. Parents can do much to increase their children's their ability to understand what is being read to them. This session allows for suggestions and fun activities that increase vocabulary and engage children when reading stories.

SECONDARY (Supports Secondary Striving Readers Research)

Reading and Writing: Working Together: Researchers agree that comprehension is more likely when students are actively involved in finding, organizing and summarizing information in their

own words. This session teaches educators, parents and students strategies to identify and state the main idea, take notes, and write a summary of what has been read.

Parents, Children and Literature: In this session, educators/parents gain techniques and strategies to help students to become proficient, fluent readers. Further, this session includes several hands-on art and music activities designed to promote phonemic awareness, build vocabulary, and help with character identification.

Parents, Children and Writing: In this high-interest, hands-on session parents help students become more effectual writers with activities that stimulate the “creative juices” and promote good and thoughtful writing. Music, brainstorming, mapping and graphic organizing are a few of the approaches that are explored.