

Deer Crossing Elementary

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The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know.
The MORE that you
learn,
the MORE places you'll go.



Importance of Independent Reading

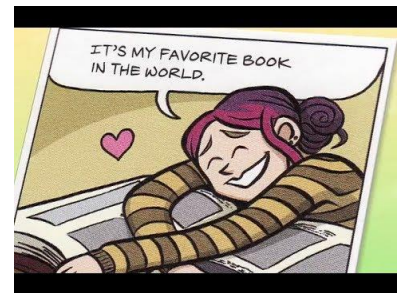
The Scholastic Book Fair was a wonderful way to kick off an exciting year of reading. Many families joined us for our family night at the book fair.

Research has shown that the amount of time students spent independently reading was the best predictor of reading achievement and reading gain in elementary aged students. Independent reading material should be at the choice of the reader. Encourage your child to find books, magazines, even manuals that they find most interesting. Independent reading helps to improve comprehension, build vocabulary knowledge, increase fluency, and expand background knowledge. But aside from higher test scores, independent reading lays the foundation for becoming enthusiastic lifelong readers.

Ideas to encourage more independent reading at home

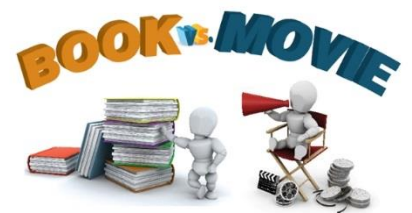
Take a Trip Down Memory Lane

Think back to your childhood. What was your favorite book? Why did you like it? Share the answers to these questions with your child and then take a trip to the book store or the library to search out your favorite picture books to read together. While you are there, search for a few new favorites.



Participate in the Great Debate... Which is better the Book or the Movie?

So many movies are based on books for children. Take the opportunity to select a book and then watch the movie together. Some options for younger students might include Ferdinand by Munro Leaf and the movie Ferdinand (2017) by blue Sky Productions, Cloudy with Chance of Meatballs (2009) and the book by the same name by Judi Barrett, or the new Christopher Robin (2018) and The Adventures of Winnie the Pooh. Older children might like Charlotte's Web by E.B. White and the movie (2006), Jumangi by Chris Van Allsburg and the original Jumangi movie (1995), and Wonder by R.J. Palacio (2017) just to name a few. Also keep an eye out in the theaters this fall for Goosebumps 2, and Mary Poppins Returns.



After reading the book and watching the movie discuss a few of these questions:

- Think about the movie setting. Did it look the way you imagined it would? How was the setting different in the book?
- If you had a friend that could either read the book or see the movie but not do both which would you recommend and why?
- How did the special effects in the movie help to enhance the story?
- How is the main character different than you imagined?
- What was your favorite part of the movie? Was it the same as your favorite part of the book?

Encourage and Model the Importance of Reading

Create a game called "**I Spy Someone Reading**". Show your child that reading isn't just for the classroom. Let your kids catch you reading whenever possible. Try making a game of it. One way might be to create "I Spy you reading!" coupons. Each time they "spy" a family member reading they present them with a coupon. Newspapers, magazines, cook books, cereal boxes, game directions and lots of other everyday items are great opportunities to catch them reading. At the end of each week, hold a drawing to award a family member with a prize. A special bookmark or trips to the library or bookstore are great prizes and they encourage them to keep reading.



Reading with your child and talking about the books sends the message that reading is important.

A conversation about books can happen anywhere and at any time — in the car, in a waiting room, or over dinner.

*Let's Talk
about it*

Try one of these conversation starters:

- If you could be friends with any character in the book, who would it be and why?
- What was the most exciting part of the book?
- What surprised you most about the story? Why was it surprising?
- What do you think the saddest part of the story was? Why?
- Is there anything in this story that is similar to something that has happened in your life? What was it and how is it similar?
- What would you do in a situation similar to that faced by a character in the story?
- What part of the story made you think it would end the way it did?
- How would you change the book's ending if you could re-write it?
- How is this book like one you read in the past? Discuss how they are alike and different. (Note: This could be a book by the same author, but doesn't have to be.)

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