

Wild About Reading!

Ms. Diiorio
5th Grade

Fostering Curiosity

You have probably heard all bout the steps to reading with your child at tonight's event. Remember tips you have heard from all our wonderful PBA teachers: Discuss the book, talk about the covers/pictures, keep a dictionary handy, take turns reading, discuss parts of speech, help them sound the word out, etc. My tip is to FOSTER CURIOSITY.

*What does it mean to foster curiosity? Engage your child in conversation about the topics/subjects in the book. Ask questions and help them discover the ways in which they can answer them. For example, if you are reading *The Jungle Book*, you want to talk about the different types of animals, or about the dangers of wildfires. Talk about predators vs. prey, about different animal species, about people and their influence over the environment, etc. Help them discover how to find out this information (resource books, library, internet sources, etc.).*

Make it a game. Play "stump Mom/Dad/Grandma/Uncle" – have them figure out a question that you do not know and discover the answer together. The point is to reward curiosity about topics. Even if you are reading a fiction story – there is always more to learn.

*We recently read a book called "Elijah of Buxton" about the first free-born boy living in a settlement of runaway slaves in Canada in 1860. Themes of slavery prompted a social studies unit on the underground railroad. Expand on the text, dig into the subject matter, encourage questions and curiosity about the subject. Ask your child lots of questions – maybe they think they have a good understanding of a topic when they really could learn a lot more. The only way you will know is to ask questions and have discussions. **Most of all, HAVE FUN!!!!***

Some of my student's favorite books:

BFG – Roald Dahl

Junie B. Jones – Barbara Park

Study Hall of Justice – Derek Fridolfs

Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Jeff Kinney

Stone Fox – John Reynolds Gardiner

James and the Giant Peach – Roald Dahl