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Bayonne Board of Education

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September 2006

Reading



Counts



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669 Avenue A
Bayonne, New Jersey 07002

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am happy to announce that this year's Bayonne School District's literacy initiative is "Reading Counts". Both school and family time involving reading are crucial in developing lifetime readers and by reading together, you can create enjoyable and rewarding times for you and your child.

This school year, the Bayonne School District is not only promoting the importance of reading, but we are also emphasizing that both reading and math are "perfect together" at home. I have listed some reading and math tips for you to review and keep in mind throughout the school year.

I hope you and your family have a successful and enjoyable school year! The right formula for academic and learning successes at school and at home is "Reading & Math...Perfect Together!"

Sincerely,

Patricia L. McGeehan

Patricia L. McGeehan, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Math Tips

(as excerpted from PBS Parents.)

Math is all around you. Every time you measure ingredients for a recipe, estimate how long something will take, count your change, notice patterns in a tiled floor, read a thermometer, or follow directions to a location, you use math to get the job done.

Talk with your child about the math you use. Share what you are thinking - your reasoning and how you figure things out - when you do something in your day that involves math. Look for ways your child can take part.

Build a "can do" attitude toward math. Your child learns from your behaviors. Use your everyday math experiences as proof that math is everywhere and we can all be successful with it.

Being wrong can help you be right. Make a mistake? Talk with your child about what you think happened or where you went wrong. Your reasoning will help your child see that mistakes can be learning opportunities.

Relax! If you feel tense and frustrated doing math with your child, take a break. Remind yourself that your job is not to "teach," but to motivate, to nurture a positive attitude, and to offer whatever supports that you can.

Reading Tips

(as excerpted from womansday.com)

Take field trips. "When you expand kids' world view, their reading expands as well," says Robert Maloy, Ed.D., professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School of Education. Kids like to read about things they've experienced. Who doesn't? So visit museums, the aquarium, and the nature center.

Play word games. Crossword puzzles, word scrambles, Boggle, and Scrabble familiarize kids with the way letters and sounds go together and how they form words, says Nell Duke, Ed.D., associate director of the Literacy Achievement Center at Michigan State University.

Put on puppet shows. Puppets, whether they're finger, paper bag, or sock, inspire kids to imagine, tell stories and create dialogue, all important components of reading.

Bake cookies. Kids rarely complain about recipe reading (especially when it involves cookies); and there's an immediate connection between words and results.

Set up play dates. Young kids who are helpful and empathetic with peers are more likely to become good readers by third grade, a study by Stanford University researchers recently found.