

Early Learning Center at George Earle Elementary



November Newsletter

Important

How can I help my child?

Help your child use the reading strategies learned.

-GET YOUR MOUTH READY. Students should pay close attention to the first letter in a word, think about the sound it makes, and make that sound to help read the word.

-CHECK THE PICTURE. Students should check the picture in the book to help them figure out the word they are trying to read. Never cover the picture.

-ONE TO ONE MATCH. Students should point to each word as they read. This helps them to read each word on a page; not adding or deleting words when they read.

-SIGHT WORDS. These are words your child often reads in books and should be able to read when they see them in print and/or books (a, my, and, can, like, dad, me, I, is, mom).

Check out this interactive literacy website for kids!

www.literactive.com/home/roadtoreading.asp

Help your child with numbers.

-COUNTING. Provide your child with real life experiences of counting objects around the house or in other places. Students should be able to count to 30 at this time.

-RECOGNIZE & WRITE NUMBERS to 10. Point out numbers that are in print. Grocery stores are a great place to find numbers.

Kindergarten Report Cards came home in October.

Your child is working to meet the requirements of Indiana's Academic Standards for Kindergarten. Help your child be successful by looking for his/her strengths and weaknesses and assisting in those areas. You are always welcome to contact your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress and can request a conference any time if needed.

SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT! Make sure your child is at school every day! Be on time. It is never too early to learn about punctuality and attendance.

Brrr! The weather is changing. Please be sure your child is dressed for the weather.

got grit?

Grit is **working hard, persevering, and never giving up!** We all need grit to get through life. Angela Duckworth and her team from the University of Pennsylvania are working on clever strategies to help students learn to work hard and adapt in the face of temptation, distraction, and defeat. When Angela was asked why she studies perseverance, she said, "Why? Because life is hard. Because there are just obstacles every day in everything that we want to do. If it were easy, it would be done already, and I think that goes for any work that's worthwhile."

In other words, children need to be taught to appreciate that it is normal to struggle when working hard on a challenge that exceeds their skills. It is normal to feel confused. Frustration is probably a sign that they're on the right track and need to get it out through natural human aversion to mental effort and feeling overwhelmed. Think of the story *Little Engine that Could*. When it got hard, he never gave up and continued to tell himself, "I think I can!"

Teachers are here to assist your children when they struggle and encourage them to keep working to accomplish their goals. In addition, they teach students the process of working through the tough work and never give up. There is a delicate balance, but our students need grit!

Here are ways we teach **GRIT**:

- Set Goals
- Self Talk/Encouragement
- Get/Give Feedback
- Take Risks/Challenge Self
- Expect it to Take Time
- Share Failures and Success