



19 November 2021

To: Subject Advisors, Teachers, Departmental Heads and Library Information Services (LIS) Coordinators

Topic: Promoting reading in homes during the December holidays.

Message Objectives are to:

- Help parents with ideas of promoting reading in homes.
- Encourage learners to read with understanding.
- Inculcate the culture of reading in homes.

The holiday break from school should just be a break for children in homes. However, we do not want them to lose all of the skills that they have worked hard for during the school year. Reading comprehension skills definitely need continuous practice, so it is important to keep children reading even when they are not attending school. The following ideas can help inculcate reading practice in children.

1. Library visits

Even if there is a collection of books at in homes, a trip to the local library is a good way to provide additional reading options for children. With some new reading materials, children may be more likely to identify a good book. Younger children benefit from fun picture books with simple words, while a new series maybe more intriguing for more skilled children. No matter the child's reading level, parents may find books that elicit excitement at the library.

2. Collect holiday – themed books

Some families have a collection of books that they take out only during the holiday season. Some maybe summer-themed or based around a holiday. No matter the content, these books seem like new each year when they are brought out of storage. After reading a fun holiday book, children can try reading comprehension activities, such retelling the story, to ensure they understand what they have just read.

3. Parents should consider giving reading resources as gifts

If parents have not already, they should add books to their children's gift lists. Once the holidays are over and before school has started back up again, their children maybe bored. According to the US Department of Education, a new book maybe just the thing children need to enjoy reading throughout the year.

4. Effective use of time

The holiday break is perfect for spending time together as family. During this time, parents can find time to teach their children and also learn together. If a parent needs to make a trip to the grocery store, they should allow their children to help them with grocery list. When travelling to family members' homes, parents can encourage their children to read signs along the way. One best gift a parent can give to his/her children is a strong education.

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