

# Evergreen Elementary School - Homework Philosophy

2015-2016

## **Objectives of Homework**

Homework must have a clear and meaningful purpose. Types of homework that fit these criteria may include the following:

- Practice a learned skill
- Previewing material before it is presented in class
- Review of information and skills previously taught
- Studying and preparing for evaluations/tests in order to consolidate learning
- Completion of work begun in class

## **Communication is Extremely Important**

No child's education can be complete without an open line of communication between the teachers and the child's parents. We encourage our parents to communicate quickly and directly with the classroom teacher should there be questions or concerns about home learning assignments. Clear communication through your child's agenda (or email where appropriate) will help us to work as a parent-teacher team. It is the parent's responsibility to sign and read your child's agenda on a daily basis to stay current with what is happening in school. This will ultimately build your child's skills and confidence and it will maintain a positive approach to school.

## **Learning Comes From Reading**

We believe reading is the basis of all learning. Reading for 15 minutes on a daily basis is a great way to start.

The following reading activities could be a meaningful part of home learning:

- Discussing illustrations in a book
- Reading to your child (at any age level)
- Choosing books at their level (contact classroom teachers or resource team)
- Having your child read to you (check for comprehension)
- Noticing words in the environment
- Playing games with words and sounds
- Reading and discussing the same article, story, novel, etc.
- Making connections between a book and your child's experiences
- Completion of the reading logs
- Reading in both languages is also very important (alternate days is suggested)

## Reading With Your Child At Home

*"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."*

Emilie Buchwald

Enjoying a book together is precious one-on-one time with your child. We encourage you to make reading time a regularly scheduled activity in your home! Reading with your child for 10-25 minutes (depending upon your child's age) will build your child's comfort and confidence and nurture a love of reading.

A child who learns to love reading has an edge – reading is an integral part of our lives, and a child who is comfortable reading will have an easier time no matter what challenges they take on! Also, reading on a daily basis will ensure that your child understands basic literacy concepts and this provides the foundation on which further literacy skills will be built.

Be sure to hold the book between you and your child so that you both can see the print. Discuss the title, the cover, and the illustrations: make predictions about the story *before* you actually begin reading the text with your child. Illustrations, photos and drawings act as "clues," providing the reader with information about the storyline. Pictures also help the reader to make sense of the story.

Ask your child if he/she recognizes any "power words" (high frequency sight words) in the story as you move from one page to the next.

Remind your child to use his/her finger to track the text from left to right. This is especially important for emergent/beginner readers.

Encourage your child to use one or more of the following strategies when they encounter an unknown word:

Look at the illustration to help predict the word.

Say the beginning sound of the word.

Try to recognize any smaller words within the word (i.e. "**big**gest").

Skip the word and continue to read until the end of the sentence. Can your child "fill in the blank", and if so, does the word make sense?

Don't let your child get frustrated and discouraged when stuck on a word. If he/she has made attempts unsuccessfully, tell him/her the word and then move on with the story.

Always end on a positive note: Praise your child for trying his/her best and doing a great job!

*"So please, oh PLEASE, we beg, we pray, Go throw your TV set away, And in its place you can install, A lovely bookshelf on the wall."*

Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*