



Reading to Children Fuels Curiosity More Than Screens

By *Chris Weller*

A growing body of research is finding that too much screen time gets in the way of healthier things kids should be doing, such as playing, studying, and sleeping. In fact, the American Academy of Pediatrics just recently amended its guidelines to limit screen time among kids 18 months to 5 years old to just one hour per day. Kids younger than a year and a half have no business sitting in front of screens, the AAP says.

There is one ancient piece of technology that does help kids become more curious learners, however: the humble book. While newer forms of media may be more personalized, research suggests physical books do a better job of sucking kids in and stoking their curiosity about more than the story at hand.

"The power of reading with somebody else is that you get to test out some of your notions of the world," Shane Bergin, physicist and education expert at University College Dublin, tells Business Insider. When parents read to their kids, they aren't just passing along factual information about the story's plot, Bergin says. They can act as sounding boards whenever a child doesn't understand a character's actions, or when their kids toss out big questions about life and the universe.

That interaction between parent and child is what counts most for Bergin. It's an approach known as "dialogic reading," and he says it's much harder to achieve that with something like a smartphone or tablet. Instead of parent and child interacting around a story, their relationship is more connected to the device, making the time less intimate.

"I'm not a Luddite at all, but I think the book plays a special role" in that physical books serve as "treasures" kids will often protect, Bergin says. Also, a book stays a book, but the tablet "can quickly become a television program or change its use very, very quickly."

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January 2017

Special points of Interest

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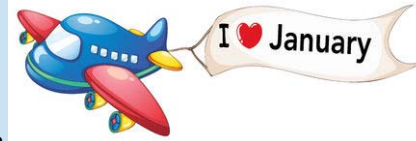
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Please check your child's parent folder every day. There is important information there! Also, make sure your child always has a change of clothes and pull-ups, if necessary. Thank You!

Pixie Butterflies

In December, we loved exploring all the different Holidays and were so excited when Ms. Stacey returned! We hope you enjoyed Pete the Cat's Christmas, we sure did! In January, we begin to explore the world of shapes. Happy New Year!

-Ms. Stacey & Ms. Stephanie



Elf Butterflies



Happy New Year! With the end of the holiday season and the Florida winter rolling in, the Elves will be learning about the winter season. Through art and hands-on learning, students will discover the fun of winter and learn about Artic animals.

-Ms. Amy J, Ms. Cindy, & Ms. Beryl

Blue Wave Butterflies

Welcome to the New Year and new goals. We will be introducing different cultures and holidays from all around the world. We will also be working on the letters O, P, Q, and R for the month of January.

-Ms. Jasmine



Julia & Buttercup Butterflies



Welcome back and Happy New Year! Our class will continue to work on kindergarten readiness skills and we will also be using sight words weekly with our letter of the week. Homework folders will be sent home. Please work with your child and return them to school weekly.

-Ms. Paige & Ms. Vicky

Monarch Butterflies

Ni hao (Hello) and welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed your holiday break. Going into this year we will be incorporating various cultures into our lesson plans. This month we will be in China. We will be discussing Chinese short stories, geography, a little calligraphy, technology, and mathematics (utilizing the abacus). I look forward to opening the children's' minds beyond their daily norms and exposing them to this beautiful world of ours. Zai Jian (Goodbye).

- Ms. Jazzy & Ms. Amy W.



Employee of the Month

Ms. Jasmine

Congratulations to Jasmine Browder, our Employee of the Month for January! Jasmine is the lead teacher of the Blue Wave classroom and has been a wonderful addition to our team.

Jasmine is loving and engaging, always in the mix of what the kids are doing.

She speaks to them on their level and has a kind and gentle demeanor that helps the children to truly bond with her. She takes ownership of her classroom and the learning that occurs in it. Jasmine's professional attitude and actions make her a pleasure to have in the classroom and as a part of our school family. Thank you, Jasmine!



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Past research suggests e-readers aren't much better. A number of studies have found parents using an e-reader spend more time giving their kids instructions on how to use the device — "Press that," "Hold it like this" — than engaging with the story.

Kids will become adept at swiping left and right, but the time it takes to teach them takes away from any bonding or language development that might otherwise be taking place.

Books might not offer the same flashy experience as an iPad or an app running AI, Bergin says, but they don't need to. Reading real books to kids bestows them with more fundamental gifts, such as empathy, imagination, and the insatiable desire to ask why.



2017 Time Capsule



As adults, we often make resolutions and promises to ourselves, but how could that concept be reinterpreted for kids? By making a time capsule and be able to compare how much your child has learned over the year. The time capsule can be filled at the beginning of every year (stored with your Holiday decorations) and then brought out at the end of the year.

Here's what you'll need:

Tin with a lid (Metal or a Pringle's container)

Gluestick

Paper or cardstock

Markers, stickers, etc. decor

Family photo

1. First, have your child create a label for their tin can using markers and other decorations you may have. Be sure to write Time Capsule on it.
2. Mom or Dad can cut out the family photo and you or your child can glue the photo to the lid of the tin.
3. After the label dries, glue the label to the tin can.
4. Contents can range from artwork, handprint, school photo, list of interests/ favorite things, one thing they would like to become better at, etc.



Super Supper

Ms. Shirley's award winning Black Bean Chili served with corn muffins.

Serves 1 adult and 2 children.

\$5.00 each

Payment due & pickup will be on Thursday, January 12, 2017.

School Closed:

We are closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 16, 2017.

We will also be closed for President's Day on Monday, February 20, 2017.

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Mission:
The Winter Park Day Nursery provides a secure, nurturing and educational environment that is affordable and supports family diversity.

Vision:
The Winter Park Day Nursery will build a stronger community by providing high-quality, affordable early childhood education that will prepare our children to succeed in school and life.

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