

T.O.O.L.S. for Work Supplement 6

Introduction to Family Literacy: Preparing Children to Read

Materials: Handout "Reading and Learning Tips for Parents"

Prerequisite: Completion of Sessions 1-3. While this supplement is directed towards participants with children, those without benefit from this as well.

Lesson duration: 30 minutes

I. Importance of developing strong readers

A. Ask participants to tell all the reasons being a good *adult* reader is important. List answers on the board.

B. Ask participants to tell why it is important for *children* to be strong readers. List answers on the board. If not generated, include:

1. Reading is the foundation for all other skills children learn in school.
2. Reading well is essential for a child's overall self-confidence in school. Self-confidence is necessary if the child is to stay motivated to stay in school

C. State, "*Studies show that the **single** most important thing a parent can do to develop good reading and writing skills in their child is **read to them.***"

II. Parents as first teachers

A. State, "*You are your child's first and most important teacher. No matter how many other good teachers come into your child's life, **you** will always have the most influence.*"

B. Explain all the ways a parent can help prepare a child to read:

1. Reading aloud is important for children of all ages, including babies, and including children who have started reading on their own.
 - Have fun! Give the characters silly voices.
 - Create a stress-free environment.
 - Try finding a regular time every day to read.
 - Involve older children in the story as you go along.
 - Talk about the pictures and what is happening.
 - Ask questions, such as, "Why do you think she said that?" or "What do you think will happen next?"
 - Encourage the use of imagination, such as, "If **you** were living in that castle, what would **your** room look like?" or "If that were happening to **you**, what would **you** do?"
2. Help develop a child's seeing, hearing, and memory skills:
 - Sing songs.
 - Say rhymes.
 - Play memory games, such as Shoe Box or Concentration.
 - Do any activity involving finding or matching shapes or colors.
3. Hand out booklet "Reading and Learning Tips for Parents" and read through it together, discussing.

C. Encourage participants to use their local library as a resource. Most libraries have a Children's Room where resources for more age-appropriate children's activities can be found. Refer to *Supplement 12 Library Tour*.