



# Parents In Partnership

Scottsville Primary School

November 2013

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## ***Readers are Leaders!***

Dear Parents.

We are excited to introduce our “Parents In Partnership” newsletter. Through this newsletter we would like to create a helpful partnership between the school and yourselves, one that will hopefully empower and encourage you in your journey through parenthood. We shall try to include topics that are helpful and relevant to both junior and senior primary children. Thanks for taking the time to read it!

As parents, finding the time to assist our children with schoolwork is often a challenge. What we don't realise though, is that often the best way to assist our children is to incorporate learning into everyday life. Simply speaking to our children, as well as reading with them, are some of the best things we can do to extend their learning. Here are some helpful hints for how to use speaking as well as reading, with your child to benefit his/her learning experience (Begin At Home, S, Gouws, M Latti, 1999):

- *Don't just hear, listen. Let your child know that you value what he/she is saying.*
- *Before you begin reading a story, ask your child to tell you about the cover or ask him to guess from the title what the story is about. This will help your child to process what follows.*
- *Pause during a story to discuss with your child what is happening and what has happened in the story. Story time should be interactive.*
- *Children are naturally curious about the meaning of words. try to answer all their questions as best you can. Have a dictionary handy so that you can look up words together. Use every opportunity you can to extend your child's vocabulary.*

Children love a good story and our town library has an excellent selection. Try to make time to go with your child and select some books together. Not only will your child appreciate the stories and be extending his/her skills in the classroom, you will be creating special memories with your child that will last a lifetime.

### **Encouraging reading in older children. ([www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org))**

- Look for things that your child will be interested in reading. Use their interests and hobbies.
- Keep a variety of different reading materials, such as books, magazines and colourful catalogues.
- Let your children see you reading for pleasure.
- Encourage older children to read to their younger siblings
- Play games that are reading-related eg: games that are played with letter tiles or that require players to read spaces, cards and directions.
- Read aloud to your child (they are never too old for this!). The pleasure of hearing you read, rather than struggling alone, may restore your child's enthusiasm for reading.
- Set aside a time each day for reading, that has nothing to do with schoolwork. Just 10 minutes each day, perhaps before bed time, can help to improve your child's reading skills and habits.

Compiled by L. Corcoran.

