

Sweeny Reading Partners

Presented by Sweeny Title Reading Services

December Issue

What can reading 20 minutes a night do?

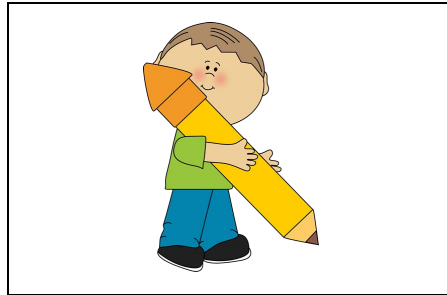
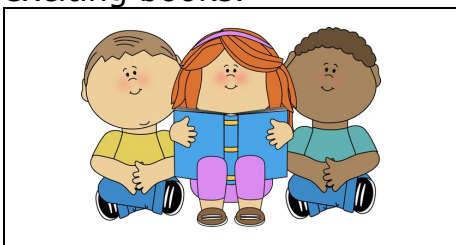
Ever wonder why it's so important to find time for your child to read at home nightly? It's amazing what 20 minutes of reading a night will do!

★ Reading 20 minutes a night gives your child exposure and experience with 1.8 MILLION words in a year!

★ Reading 20 minutes a night makes your child more likely to score in the 90th percentile on standardized tests!

★ Reading 20 minutes a night beginning in kindergarten means that by the time your child is in 6th grade they will have read the equivalent of 60 school days!

It's never too late to start this wonderful and important habit! Pick a time and place that's comfortable and free of distractions. Get everyone involved. You can be your child's best example! Have fun looking for new and exciting books.



Descriptive Writing

At Sweeny, we teach our young writers that every writer's goal is to paint a picture in a reader's mind so they can "see" the story being told.

Writing at home can help your child become a better writer and show him that you are interested in what he is writing about. Try having him write a story about an imaginary creature using lots of descriptive words to help you get a great picture in your mind. Older students can use figurative language, like similes, to help make their descriptions. Similes make comparisons using the words *like* or *as*. (It's as fluffy as cotton candy. It's smelly like a pig.) You can even try to draw a picture of what his descriptive writing made you "see" in your mind!

Try This At Home

Spelling Practice

Build spelling words out of yarn snips. Grab some yarn and snip some pieces. Have your child bend and move these pieces to create letters. Then give her a word to build and spell.



Great Words!

As a family, each person can pick a word to learn to spell each week. Your child can pick a word she saw in a book, like *stealthily* or *adorable*, or a word she heard that sounded really cool! Keep a list of everyone's words on the fridge so that everyone gets to see and try all the great new words.

**A BOOK IS A GIFT
YOU CAN OPEN
AGAIN AND AGAIN.**

~GARRISON KEILLOR

