



# Parent Resource Newsletter

Monthly tip for parents

## A Fresh Look at Your Home Library

Having interesting things to read at home is a great way to keep kids motivated and the New Year is a great time to take a fresh look at your home library. Some simple changes on your part can help you create an amazing home library, and help your child develop an early love of reading!



Below are a few questions to ask yourself about your home library. You can create an amazing home library and help your young reader start this New Year on the right reading foot!

### Does your home library offer...?

1. A variety of books? Kids love to read all sorts of materials, including books, magazines, newspapers, and poems. Consider including travel brochures, street maps, and programs from school plays.
2. Books written at a variety of reading levels? It's important to have some books that are easy for your child to read, but it's also good to have some that can be read most successfully with an adult. This balance enables your child to feel confident with some books, and grow as a reader with others.
3. Some method of organization? Sometimes grouping books by topic or series helps your child find other books they might like to read. Grouping books using book baskets also help kids find a book more easily than a crowded shelf.
4. Lots of nonfiction material? Even the youngest readers love to read about real places and things. These materials often include photographs, maps and charts full of interesting information.
5. Lots of choice? Find creative ways to add books to your library. Playgroup book swaps, yard sales, and used book stores all offer affordable ways to add to your collection.

Take the time this New Year to consider your home library. Your reader will be glad you did!

**Resource:** [www.ReadingRockets.com](http://www.ReadingRockets.com); January 2017 article

**Quote:** *Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.* - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

### Helping Your Child Succeed in School

### Resolve to Get Organized in 2017

Most kids generate a little chaos and disorganization. Yours might flit from one thing to the next — forgetting books at school, leaving towels on the floor, and failing to finish projects once started. You'd like them to be more organized and to stay focused on tasks, such as homework. Is it possible?

Yes! Organization is a skill learned over time. With help and some practice, kids can develop an effective approach to getting stuff done. And you're the perfect person to teach your child, even if you don't feel all that organized yourself!

### Easy as 1-2-3

For kids, all tasks can be broken down into a 1-2-3 process.

1. **Getting organized** means a kid gets where he or she needs to be and gathers the supplies needed to complete the task.
2. **Staying focused** means sticking with the task and learning to say "no" to distractions.
3. **Getting it done** means finishing up, checking your work, and putting on the finishing touches, like remembering to put a homework paper in the right folder and putting the folder inside the backpack so it's ready for the next day.

Not only is it practical to teach these skills, but knowing how to get stuff done will help your child feel more competent and effective. Kids feel self-confident and proud when they're able to accomplish their tasks and responsibilities. They're also sure to be pleased when they find they have some extra free time to do what they'd like to do.

**Resource:** KidsHealth.org, January 2017

### Did You Know Fun Facts About January

- On average, January is the coldest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and a summer month equivalent of July in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Sometimes January was called the Wolf Month because hungry wolves would come into villages searching for food this time of year.
- January's birthstone is Garnet. It is said that garnet represents balance, which is definitely something we all need after the crazy busy month of December.



## Some Important Things About Reading

### **Learning to read is complex**

Reading is a complex process that draws upon many skills that need to be developed at the same time.

### **Kids who struggle usually have problems sounding out words**

Difficulties in decoding and word recognition are at the core of most reading difficulties. Poor readers have difficulty understanding that sounds in words are linked to certain letters and letter patterns. This is called the "alphabetic principle."

The reason many poor readers don't attain the alphabetic principle is because they haven't developed phonemic awareness — being aware that words are made up of speech sounds, or phonemes. When word recognition isn't automatic, reading isn't fluent, and comprehension suffers.

### **Without help, struggling readers continue to struggle**

Many children learn to read by first grade regardless of the type of instruction they receive. Children who don't learn, however, don't seem able to catch up on their own.

More than 88 percent of children who have difficulty reading at the end of first grade display similar difficulties at the end of fourth grade. And three-quarters of students who are poor readers in third grade will remain poor readers in high school. These facts highlight the importance of providing a strong foundation.

### **With help, struggling readers can succeed**

For 85 to 90 percent of poor readers, prevention and early intervention programs can increase reading skills to average reading levels. These programs, however, need to combine instruction in phoneme awareness, phonics, spelling, reading fluency, and reading comprehension strategies, and must be provided by well-trained teachers.

As many as two-thirds of reading disabled children can become average or above-average readers if they are identified early and taught appropriately.

### **Teaching kids to read is a team effort**

Parents, teachers, caregivers, and members of the community must recognize the important role they can play in helping children learn to read. Research shows that what families do makes a difference, what teachers do makes a difference, and what community programs do makes a difference. It's time for all those who work with children to work together to ensure that every child learns to read. It is our shared responsibility.

**References :** *Reading Rockets (2011)*

### Site Review

#### **Resources available for Parents and Families:**

Checkout this website: [thekidzpage](http://thekidzpage.com) has been online since 1998. [thekidzpage.com](http://thekidzpage.com) is a free website for kids! It has hundreds of free kids games, puzzles, activities, coloring pages, clip art & more for children, families, parents and teachers... Kids of all ages are invited to play! Also they have free online games, puzzles and kids pintables in the kid's games & activities sections! New educational and fun games, activities and pintables are added on a regular basis for kids, schools and family fun. See: [www.http://thekidzpage.com](http://www.http://thekidzpage.com)

## Kids Corner

### **Calendar Events: Celebrate Family Literacy Year Round with Monthly Activities for JANUARY that Parents and Children Can Do Together**

**The New Year January 2017:** Make a vocabulary resolution — you and your child can learn a new word each week for the entire year. Keep a list of the words you learn.

**January is National Soup Month:** Celebrate by serving alphabet soup.

See who can be the first to spell a word from the letters in the soup.



**National Handwriting Day (January 23):**

Practice handwriting by writing a note to a family member (aunt or uncle, grandparent, cousin). The note could be a thank you note for holiday gifts or a note about what you have been doing in school so far this year.



*Here are our 2016-2017 Title I Contacts for our Title I Program at your school*

#### **Literacy Coach; Mrs. Rachel Yohn:**

*Davey School (330-676-7409)*  
*Longcoy School (330-676-8379)*

#### **Literacy Coach, Mrs. Kristin Garner:**

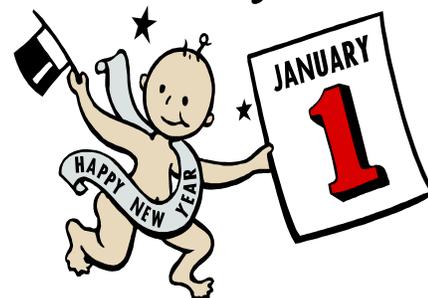
*Holden School (330-676-8400)*  
*Walls School (330-676-8300)*

#### **Parent Involvement Coordinator,**

*Ms. Pam Bose: All Schools (330-676-7425)*

**Federal Grants Coordinator,** Mrs. Karen Rumley, Director of Instructional Program:  
*All Schools (330-676-7600)*

*Best Wishes for 2017*



Parents  
plus  
Schools  
equals  
Success