

Lessons for Parents and Grandparents

I watched a young father in the library the other day gently leading his two children to the picture book section. He quietly told them how much fun it would be exploring books about fish. There was a determined purpose on their faces, and they got right to their work.

The more an adult can show a child by his actions that knowledge is valuable, the better off the young ones like this father who is taking the time to engage in conversation and helping his children expand their minds constructively.

Then again, when a child sees a purpose in reading for information that is all the motivation required. It's a win-win.

A grandmother had her two charges there already in the backroom finding a stack of books to take home. Books were scattered everywhere and decisions were made to which ones would go, and which ones would be put back on the shelves.

The stacks were almost as high as the youngest when all was said and done. Each one placed her books up on the counter to be checked out. While there, the librarian asked the girls if they were anxious for story time now that fall had arrived. It's a wonderful service that libraries provide for the community.

Early literacy starting at infancy fosters later success in school all the research tells you.

You and I marvel when we observe an adult reading to a child on their lap in all sorts of places like the waiting room at the dentist's or at the car service department.

What was once a normal everyday occurrence now takes second place too often with devices the first choice of both kids and adults alike.

On the other hand, I want to yank the cellphone from mom's hand and tell her to give some time to her child. No wonder the little one is restless and whining unable to wait patiently.

Sharing stories and reading to your child is a great way for them to develop key language skills such as talking and listening.

Often "required reading" at home is pure drudgery since it is perceived by parents as a necessary homework chore to be checked off, and it doesn't take long for children to pick up on those vibes, too.

The neighbor kids consistently go to bed at the same time every night. Their parents explain to them they need rest in order to do well at school the next day. They have a personal reading time before falling asleep while their devices are tucked away until tomorrow.

When you are looking for gifts, think books for all ages, and certainly for young ones.