

Tips and Tricks for Reading with your Child

Evan Hecker, Kamiak Elementary Principal

As young students continue to grow and move to higher grade levels, one of the most vital components of their development is language development. All parents are excited when their child comes home as a fluent reader, but the skill starts several years before. Research shows that reading at home with your child helps them to build language skills, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

Children who are read to for 20 minutes per day have heard over 1.8 million words by the time they enter school. Children who are read to for 5 minutes per day have heard about 300,000 words, and children who are read to for 1 minute per day have heard about 8,000 words. How often and how much students are read to has an incredible impact on a student's ability to comprehend and understand words, and those who hear more vocabulary words are better prepared when they see those words in the classroom for the first time. And who doesn't want their child to pick up reading skills at a quicker and easier pace?

With summer right around the corner, now is the time to start reading with your child on a regular basis. Below are some suggestions to help build confident and successful readers, and to make reading part of your daily routine:

Read Every Day

Discussing story content, asking open-ended questions about story events, explaining the meaning of words, and pointing out features of print enhance the reading experience. These techniques promote increased language development, comprehension of story content, knowledge of story structure, and a better understanding of language. All of these skills lead to literacy success (Berk, L. E. 2009 Child Development, 8th ed. Pearson Education, Inc). Reading every day also teaches your children that reading is important and a priority in their lives.

Find a Comfortable and Quiet Place

Sitting, laying side by side, or letting your child curl up in your lap in a favorite chair is an excellent way to help

them focus on the book. It also shows how much you care about them and reading. Choose a "just right" amount of time beforehand as well.

During Reading

Take a book walk with your child. Use their mistakes as a way to gather information. Pause to ask questions. Never feel like you have to read the whole book at once. You might find yourself wrapped up in a discussion about the author's purpose, or making predictions, or making text connections about how the story is similar to something in your lives.

After Reading

Reflect on the book with your child. Use summarizing to see if they can retell what happened in the story at the beginning, middle, and end. Discuss the main problem in the story and ask if the problem was resolved. If so, how was it resolved?

I hope you carve out some time each day with your child to read and partner with our schools to help build life-long readers and learners.

Follow us!

LET'S BE SOCIAL!

Pullman Public Schools
Franklin Elementary
Jefferson Elementary
Kamiak Elementary
Sunnyside Elementary
Lincoln Middle School
Pullman High School

@PullmanSD
@FESFoxes
@PullmanKES
@SESSuperstars
@LMSPrincipals
@PullmanHS

@PullmanPublicSchools
@Kamiak.Elementary.School
@SunnysideSuperstars
@LMSPrincipals
@PullmanHS

#PROUD2bePSD

Child Find 2022-2023
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

This screening is an opportunity to identify, locate, and evaluate children who might have a disability and to address potential concerns. This is available to children (birth through 5 years of age) residing, or living in a temporary situation, within Pullman School District's boundaries.

UPCOMING SCREENING DATES:

✓ **Friday, May 5**

All children ages 5-21 who are suspected of possibly having a disability who reside in, or are living in a temporary situation, within PSD's boundaries are entitled to child find activities. This includes all children enrolled in PSD schools, children who are being home schooled, and children enrolled in a private school located in the district (even if they reside in another district).

For more information or to **schedule an appointment**, please contact Pullman School District's Instructional Programs Office at (509) 332-3144.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT
Now Open!
ENROLLMENT IS ONLINE!

HAVE A CHILD WHO WILL BE 5 YEARS OLD BY AUGUST 31, 2023?

2023-2024

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Documentation of Student Age
- ✓ Medically verified and up-to-date Certificate of Immunization Status or Exemption
- ✓ Ages & Stages Questionnaire

Questions?
Email enrollment@psd267.org or call (509) 332-3581. You can also view more information on our website: www.pullmanschools.org/enrollment

Paper and/or translated applications available upon request.

A Day in the Life of a Bus Driver

Joe Thornton, Executive Director of Operations

I have held many positions in my 24 years with the Pullman School District; teacher, coach, high school assistant principal, high school principal, and now, Director of Operations. In my current position, I am often called on to drive a school bus as a substitute because a regular driver is out sick or taking a group of students on an activity trip. Of all the things I have done for the Pullman School District perhaps the most challenging one has been to drive a school bus. But, it's also been one of the most rewarding! I'd like to give a quick snapshot of what the day of bus driving looks like.

Depending on the route assigned, a driver shows up to the transportation center as early as 6:00 a.m. to begin the pre-trip preparation of their bus. The pre-trip involves doing a safety inspection of the bus to make certain it is safe and ready to transport students. It involves checking under the hood of the bus, as well as suspension, tires, air brakes, lights, and emergency exits. All of these systems, by code, must be checked before the start of each trip with students. If any of these systems fail the inspection, the bus is taken out of service. Once the pre-trip is done, the driver is ready to hit the road on their route, and it may only be 6:30 a.m.

Driving a bus can provide sensory overload, and that is even before the students get on the bus. There are lots of things to keep an eye on; not just all the gauges, but also all the traffic. Many of the early routes go outside the city on rural routes. Depending on the time of year, it is often pitch black at the start of the trip as you navigate your way down gravel roads. The traffic at 6:30 is usually pretty light, but not at 7:30. The view from behind the wheel of a bus includes seeing down into cars and what other drivers are doing--the number of people on their phones while they drive is disturbing. Speaking of traffic, it gets really interesting when it is snowy, icy, foggy, slushy or all of the above together. Add to that, during the first storm of winter when, it seems, everyone else has forgotten how to drive in the snow or their snow tires are in the garage and not on the car. Also, remember the cold snap last December? At the transportation center it was -17o when drivers needed to climb into a bus and get started. Diesel engines take a long time to warm up, and that's also true with the cab of the bus.

Then, you finally get to pick up students. This is the highlight of the job! For most of the students that ride the bus, if not for the transportation we provide, they would not get to school. For the most part, students are enthusiastic, and you have the opportunity to start their school day off with a positive interaction with school staff. Elementary students are energetic and silly. High

school students are quiet and sleepy, with ear-buds in and screen on. They will acknowledge your presence with a quick head bob. Middle schoolers are all over the place from silly to somber. They will acknowledge your presence, but only if their friends are not watching. You just have to remind yourself that middle school students are biologically programmed to not be thrilled at the sight of an adult--especially one that is taking them to school.

When the bus is full and you are headed to school, the job of a bus driver includes managing student behavior. In the classroom, teachers help students stay on task with eye contact and proximity--both difficult to do on a bus. You must rely on building good rapport, being clear with expectations for riding safely, and being consistent in reminding and enforcing the rules. If the bus is a very full, you may have a para-professional staff member from a school ride along and help manage the students. These bus paras can provide invaluable assistance with helping students ride safely when the bus is full.

After arriving at the school (not too early but not too late), navigating the parent traffic around the school, and safely unloading the students, you return to the transportation center. There you conduct a post-trip safety inspection and complete mileage logs and paperwork--then you are back at it about five hours later for the trip home. The afternoon trip is a bit more lively, especially on a Friday. As the bus driver, you have the opportunity to be the last school staff the student sees that day and to end their day with a smile and wish for a good afternoon or weekend. My experience is that about 90% of students wish you the same and thank you for driving them to or from school.

Driving a bus is an often times overlooked and invisible essential role that supports student success. We know that students cannot learn if they are hungry, but it is also true that students cannot learn if they cannot get to school. School bus driving can be a rewarding part-time job, and many of our drivers are retired from other careers. If you are interested in being part of our team and being professionally involved in our school system, please call us at the School District office for more information about how to train for and then apply for a job as a school bus driver, including as a substitute driver. The District provides the necessary training and pays for it, as well.

The next time you cross paths with a bus driver, please thank them for the work they do to safely get students to and from school. By the way, bus drivers also look forward to summer--just like the students.

The Pullman School District Board of Directors and the Pullman School District shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities programs without regard to race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity), marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, participation in the Boy Scouts of America or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent, (509) 332-3144, and Section 504 Coordinator, Director of Special Services, (509) 332-3144, 240 SE Dexter Street, Pullman, WA 99163. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in the application process by contacting the Personnel Coordinator at (509) 332-3584.

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