

Family Reading Dragon Program

Kindergarten through 1st grade

The Program

The Lee F. Jackson Family Reading Dragon Program is an elementary school-wide initiative that encourages parents/guardians to read aloud to their children. It is founded on sound research that shows a strong link between early literacy and active parent involvement.

In October of the school year, parents/guardians sign a written agreement to read to their children for 15 minutes a day, seven days a week. Books are selected by families and also made available through school-based distribution several times a year. Both parent and child have a role: the parent/guardian reads and documents the name of the book while the child cuts out the dragon and returns it to school each week. The school conducts a Parent University which provides effective strategies on how to maximize benefits in the interactive reading experience. Classroom teachers keep a record of reading progress and send reminders to those parents/guardians when necessary. In addition, certificates for a job well done are sent home to families who keep up with the reading activity. In cases where children do not have the daily opportunity to engage with a parent, the school has enlisted the volunteer assistance of local senior citizen groups whose members are paired with children for the reading activity.

Results

Reading levels assessed in September, January, and June have risen substantially by the end of each year. In September 2000 47% of children in 1st grade were reading at the lowest level. By June of 2000, less than 1% of tested children were reading at that level. Similarly, 13% were reading at grade level in September; that proportion rose to 78% by June.



Learning Standards

English Language Arts: The program addresses all English Language Arts standards.

Contact

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