

École Edwards Elementary School  
Home Reading Program

Dear Parents and Guardians, Students and Families,

Education is a truly a partnership between home and school. Literacy is foundational to student learning and parents play a crucial role in building this foundation. The most important thing you can do to support literacy and promote a joy of reading is to read with your child every day. Aside from supporting your child's basic needs, reading with them will have the greatest impact on influencing their academic achievement and success. "There are many ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all"- Jacqueline Kennedy

### **What Really Matters for Reading Success**

<b>Why Is Reading 20 Minutes Every Day So Important?</b>			
Students' learning trajectories improve as they read more. By reading 20 minutes each day, instead of one minute, a child's print exposure increases by 225 times! <b>(Nagy &amp; Herman, 1987)</b>			
	<b>Minutes of daily reading</b>	<b>Number of words exposed to</b>	<b>Reading percentile scored</b>
Student A	20	1,800,000	90
Student B	5	282,000	50
Student C	1	8,000	10
<b>INCREASE IN MINUTES READ: INCREASE IN PRINT EXPOSURE</b>			
<b>Minutes read/day</b>	<b>Multiple increase</b>	<b>Words exposed to</b>	<b>Multiple increase</b>
20	x 20	1,800,000	x 225
5	x 5	282,000	x 35
1	-	8,000	-

### **Comprehension**

The understanding of and meaning taken from a given passage of text; from basic recall to higher order thinking representations, such as making connections.

### **Accuracy**

The number of words a child reads/sounds out correctly.

### **Fluency**

The speed and/or phrasing the child reads with; beginning readers typically read 1-2 words at a time, then move to reading in phrases using expression then to reading in complete sentences with attention to punctuation.

## **How We Teach Reading at École Edwards Elementary School**

Our instructional community uses a Balanced Literacy Framework including the following tools and practices:

- Common scheduled uninterrupted literacy blocks
- Literacy embedded throughout all curriculum areas
- Beginning of the year and ongoing literacy diagnostics including running records
- Targeted literacy intervention
- Focus on modelled, shared, guided and ultimately independent experiences in both reading and writing. (Daily read alouds, shared reading/writing, guided practice and independent application)
- Targeted instruction in reading Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding vocabulary (CAFE)
- School-wide sight words list
- School-wide reading continuum
- School-wide home reading program
- Rocky View Reads programming including Family Literacy Nights

Reading expert, Richard Allington suggests the following key components be in place for an exemplary reading program:

1. Making the time to read each day
2. Student choice of reading materials
3. High accuracy rates when reading
4. High comprehension levels when reading
5. Talking about what was read
6. Listening to a fluent adult read aloud

Our Home reading program has been designed to complement the school education plan and instructional work being done, with a goal of providing families with the opportunity to engage in the joy of reading.

### **Home Reading Program Goals**

1. Parents read at home with their child every school night, or at least 5 days per week, every week.
2. Children read self-selected reading materials from our school Home Reading Program every day.
3. Reading material is at the child's Independent Reading Level (a good fit book), with 98% or higher accuracy.
4. Children understand what they read every day.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Children talk with their parents about what they read every day.</li><li>6. Parents and children complete the book log after reading every day.</li></ol> |
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Please ensure that you help your children keep all home reading books in good condition. We ask that students transport their books to and from school, along with their home reading duotang, inside the large Ziploc that is provided for them. If your child loses one of our home reading books, you will be required to either replace that book with a new copy or pay a replacement fee.

Please help your child by committing to daily participation in our Home Reading Program. The results will last a lifetime!

Thank you,  
École Edwards Staff

Alberta Reads Network. (2015). Why is Reading 20 Minutes Every Day So Important. *Wee Reads Facilitator Guide*. 30

Allington, R. L. & Gabriel, R.E. (2012). Every Child, Every Day. *Educational Leadership*, March 2012, 69(6), 10-15