



Beginning Reading and Book Bags

Learning to read is a very complex task.

Many factors including our exposure to language through communication with family and friends and background experiences contribute to the process.

Early and continued exposure to literature further develops a child's experiences of the world and builds on known vocabulary..

Research in the USA into the teaching of Reading has indicated that there are 5 "Big Ideas" in beginning to read:

1. **Phonemic Awareness:** The ability to hear and manipulate sounds in words
2. **Phonics:** The ability to associate sounds with letters and to use these sounds to form words.
3. **Fluency:** The effortless, automatic ability to read words in connected text.
4. **Vocabulary:** The ability to understand (receptive) and use (expressive) words to acquire and convey meaning.
5. **Comprehension:** The understanding of what has been read.

These Big Ideas form the building blocks of Reading instruction. They are of equal importance and work together to develop the intricate process of learning to read.

Each of these building blocks will be discussed more fully in subsequent newsletters.

Our Prep and Year One classes through the introduction of the **Book Bags** are being immersed in quality children's literature. The bags contain a book, related oral language and early literacy activities and games. The reading of the book by the adult provides a model of **fluency** and expression. The oral language activities extend **comprehension** and **vocabulary** and the literacy activities tap into **phonemic awareness** and early **phonics**.

Useful web sites

www.readingeggs.com

www.starfall.com

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