



Jennifer Wood

jennifer.wood@sturgeon.ab.ca
mrswoodsonlineclassroom.weebly.com
school phone: (780) 939-3445

HOME READING PROGRAM

I am so excited for this year's home reading program and working with your family to support your child in their learning process. Reading is close to my heart as it was one of my favourite things to do with my mom growing up. In addition to being a great opportunity to bond with your child, reading has several academic benefits. For instance, research has found that reading regularly (3-5 times per week in 15-30 minute increments) supports students not only in language arts but across subject areas as it helps them build decoding and comprehension skills as well as subject specific vocabulary.

This year, our goal is to be bookworms! Students will be decorating bookworms to inch their way around the room as they accumulate home reading minutes. In order to support your child in their growth, please encourage them to read daily for at least 15 minutes. If stamina is a challenge for your child, set incremental goals such as reading for 5, 10, and then 15 minutes.

Choosing Books:

Students are offered choice for accumulating reading minutes:

Good Fit Books: In Language Arts, we will be discussing how to choose Good Fit Books. Your child will be creating a poster explaining how to select a good fit book that will be sent home to keep as reference. The acronym we use to select good fit books is "I PICK," which stands for:

I - I choose a book.

P - Purpose: Why do I want to read this book?

I - Interest: Does this book interest me?

C - Comprehend: Do I understand what is happening?

K - Know: Do I know most of the words?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, it is not a good fit book and the student needs to select a new book. Students will be using this method to select books during library time that they can use for home reading.

Alternatively, if your family utilizes the public library, you can help your child choose a good fit book for home reading as well.

If you find the books your child is selecting are too challenging or not challenging enough, please help them select good fit books from your home or public library. We will be periodically checking in with students at school as well, to ensure they are choosing good fit books.

Recording Reading Minutes:

Please help your child record their reading minutes in their agendas on the monthly calendar. At the end of every month we will add up their reading minutes and students will be able to advance their reading worms around the classroom.

Earning Prizes:

For every 1 000 minutes of home reading, students will advance to the next stage and earn a prize. The students have brainstormed some ideas of great prizes and we have come up with the following list:

1 000 Minutes	Candy "Book Worms"
2 000 Minutes	Special Pen/Pencil
3 000 Minutes	Journal
4 000 Minutes	Special Bookmark
5 000 Minutes	\$5 Scholastic Book
6 000 Minutes	Puzzle Book
7 000 Minutes	Art Journal
8 000 Minutes	30 Minutes of Reading or Writing
9 000 Minutes	Reading Buddy
10 000 Minutes	\$10 Scholastic Book



Supporting Your Child:

A shared goal of parents and educators is the growth, development, and success of your child. As a team, we can help your child grow. Some ways you can help your child at home include:

1. **Reading to Your Child:** Reading aloud to your child helps them become better readers as it develops interest in reading as well as helps students develop fluency and expression in their own reading.

OR

Family Reading Time: If your child is no longer interested in being read to, consider slotting in some time to read as a family, all with the same book, or individual books. This will help encourage reading as a life-long, enjoyable, and worthwhile endeavour.

**Please note that while reading to your child is a great way to support them, only minutes spent where your child is reading count towards recorded home reading minutes.*

2. **Coaching or Time:** In class we support each other as readers by asking one another whether we need coaching or time to figure out a difficult part of the text. Sometimes we just need a little time to figure it out, while other times we need some extra strategies. As coaches, our job is to remind the reader about strategies that might be helpful in that situation. Some strategies you can suggest if your child asks for coaching include:

Accuracy Strategies: I can read the words.

- Use the pictures... do the words and pictures match?
- Sound it out
- Trade a word/guess another word that makes sense
- Skip the word then come back
- Cross checking... Do the words sound right? Do they make sense?

Comprehension Strategies: I understand what I read.

- Check for understanding (at the end of a paragraph or page... if it doesn't make sense, go back and re-read)



- Use prior knowledge to connect to the text
- Make predictions and use the text to confirm
- Make a picture or mental image
- Ask questions while reading
- Use text features (titles, headings, captions, graphic features)
- Summarize the text

3. **Checking for Comprehension:** Sometimes as readers we can read all the words but may not be able to understand the meaning of the text. One way to help your child become a better reader is encourage them to use the comprehension strategies listed above and to have them summarize the text to you after reading, answering questions about the text.

If you have any questions or require clarification on part of the home reading program, please feel free to write me message in your child's agenda or send me an email.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Jen Wood

