

I know readers are LEADERS!

Dear Lakes Parents,

All year we have been using monthly training themes in our “Eagles Take Flight” SEL and character development program. I wanted to send you off for the summer with one last theme for you and your children - **I know readers are LEADERS!**

One of our missions is to arm you, as parents, with the tools and tricks for raising healthy, successful, high achieving, and happy children. This one is a no-brainer. Educators and experts universally know that reading is one of the most powerful skills your child can ever learn. It may play one of the largest roles in their future.

But I want to give you and your child an edge. The key is not teaching your child the “skill” of reading but instead developing in them the “love” of reading. Here are some tips:

1. You - Probably the most effective way to develop the love of reading in your child is for **YOU** to love reading (and fake it if you need to at first!) You can tell your child to read more but if they see you reading you will probably never need to.
2. Family Culture – Every family has a culture. It is just a matter if it is intentional or accidental. Culture is just a “group habit” or “how we do it here”. You can develop a family of reading lovers. We are readers!
3. Read to your child – A great way to develop the love of reading early in young children is to read to them regularly. Set a time each day. Link it to something you already do each day. Best of all you will find your child telling you when **THEY** are ready to start reading.
4. Always have books around – Have books in your car. Have them all over the house. Have a bag of books with you. (The most successful people have the largest libraries.) Carry a book with you everywhere.
5. Summer Reading Program – Read even more over the summer than the school year. Take full advantage of summer reading programs and stack them on, typically through a local library. Summer is a time when they can either get ahead . . . or slip backwards in reading and math.

So, there it is. Just remember this – develop the “love” of reading! If you do your little reader will become a leader! Enjoy your summer but keep working hard and playing hard. See you on August 21st.

Yours for stronger kids,

Mr. Tony Howerton
Principal
Lakes Elementary School