Parent program helps kids’ reading, study says

December 5, 2014 | By Erin Brownfield | 1 Comment

The adage that “parents are a child’s first teachers” applies to learning to tie shoes and ride a trike. But parents also can be crucial when it comes to learning to read and write – especially if
they get some guidance along the way, according to recent research.

The nonprofit research organization Child Trends looked at nearly two dozen evaluations of Raising A Reader, a California-based program that teaches parents how to be reading mentors to their kids. The Child Trends report found that parents who received training in the most effective ways to encourage kids’ reading were more likely to report positive changes in their children, such as improvement in spoken language skills, ability to ask questions and turning pages in a book.

With help from workshops that Raising a Reader offers, parents can learn how to deeply engage with their kids around books, by asking questions and helping kids make connections between the stories they read and their own lives.

Parents who completed the training showed a stronger connection to their kids’ literacy development, the Child Trends study found. They were more likely to read together, more likely to have an established routine for reading and to recognize the importance of reading to children at an early age.

Family involvement in kids’ education has been shown to have an important positive effect on young children as they develop literacy skills. A 2013 report from the nonprofit policy group MDRC summarizes what is known about the importance of parents. One of the key findings is that parents from diverse backgrounds can be taught how to engage more effectively with their kids to support early learning.

The findings point to the importance of parental involvement, a stated priority of California’s Local Control and Accountability Plans, districts’ three-year plans, updated annually, that describe how they will meet their goals for school improvement and student success. School districts are trying new ways to engage parents in reading, including a text messaging initiative in the San Francisco Unified School District.
The Raising A Reader program is offered in a variety of settings, from libraries to schools to after-school programs. In California, it is offered in 1,400 sites reaching an estimated 57,000 children. Its national offices are in Redwood City. The program targets low-income families who may not have the tools or knowledge to encourage reading at home with their youngsters.

Raising A Reader will participate next in a large-scale formal evaluation of its programs.

Erin Brownfield is editor of EdSource's Leading Change newsletter. Email her or Follow her on Twitter. Sign up here for a no-cost online subscription to EdSource Today for reports from the largest education reporting team in California.

FILED UNDER: Academics, Early Learning
TAGS: Child Trends, Featured, Raising A Reader, Reading

RELATED POSTS

Bill calls for a time out on the California High School Exit Exam
February 10, 2015

Khan Academy launches ambitious math ‘challenge’
February 9, 2015

Schools help families enroll in Covered California, Medi-Cal
February 8, 2015

Lawsuit seeks instruction intervention at 5 high schools
February 7, 2015

New lawmakers rise instantly to run committees on children’s policies
February 5, 2015

COMMENTS
Leave a Comment

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Name *
Your Name

Mail *
Your E-Mail

Website
Got a website?

Comment
Your Comment here...

POST COMMENT

COMMENT POLICY

EdSource encourages a robust debate on education issues and welcomes comments from our readers.

- To preserve a civil dialogue, writers should avoid personal, gratuitous attacks and invective.
- Comments should be relevant to the subject of the article responded to.
- EdSource retains the right not to publish inappropriate and offensive comments.
• EdSource encourages commenters to use their real names. Commenters who do decide to use a pseudonym should use it consistently.

• Please limit comments to 250 words to prevent comment clutter; if you intend to say more please link out to a place that contains your full comment.

• Comments with more than one link automatically enter moderation. Comments from new commenters are automatically moderated.

• REPEATED VIOLATION OF THIS COMMENT POLICY WILL LEAD TO A WARNING. CONTINUED VIOLATIONS WILL LEAD TO A BAN.

One Response to “Parent program helps kids’ reading, study says”

EdSource does not track who “likes or dislikes” a comment. We only track the number of likes and dislikes.

April Inniss, MD

12/8/2014 2:36 pm

This is wonderful. As a pediatrician, I’m especially happy to hear about this initiative, as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Clinton Global Initiative have renewed a push for cultivating literacy skills beginning as early as infancy.

I think too often we assume that aspects of parenting just come naturally. In a culture that’s quickly becoming more digital, imparting to parents (esp younger parents) these foundational skills becomes incredibly important. Would love to see this initiative connected to child literacy outcomes later in life. I’m looking forward to hearing more; kudos to Raising a Reader!
POPULAR POSTS

Khan Academy launches ambitious math ‘challenge’
February 9, 2015 | Comment | By John Fensterwald

Lawsuit seeks instruction intervention at 5 high schools
February 7, 2015 | Comment | By Jane Meredith Adams

Schools help families enroll in Covered California, Medi-Cal
February 8, 2015 | Comment | By Jane Meredith Adams

Classroom coaches critical as teachers shift to Common Core
February 4, 2015 | Comment | By Laurie Udesky

Lawsuit agreement to force schools to provide physical education
February 1, 2015 | Comment | By Jane Meredith Adams

RECENT COMMENTS

Douglas Gray – Your question is far too deep in the technology weeds for...
February 10, 2015 | Comment | By Doug McRae in response to Smarter Balanced tests are still a work in progress

The test may no longer be necessary, but transitioning to common core is not...
February 10, 2015 | Comment | By navigio in response to Bill calls for a time out on the California High School Exit Exam

Sounds great (to the extent parents and teachers are not already doing it). However
February 10, 2015 | Comment | By navigio in response to Khan Academy launches ambitious math ‘challenge’

I’m glad you mentioned cost. Any discussion of these techniques must include a clear...
February 10, 2015 | Comment | By navigio in response to Classroom coaches critical as teachers shift to Common Core

Not to demean your efforts—I certainly agree with your point—but I was addressing major...
February 10, 2015 | Comment | By TheMorrigan in response to Lawsuit seeks instruction intervention at 5 high schools

I do tech support for local one-room school in Landaff NH. The teacher is
February 10, 2015 | Comment | By Douglas Gray in response to Smarter Balanced tests are still a work in progress

The Morrigan, you raise an interesting point. Everyone now wants to spend on technology...
February 9, 2015 | Comment | By FloydThursby1941 in response to Lawsuit seeks instruction intervention at 5 high schools

You never answered my question. Do you have an alternative, or is your goal
February 9, 2015 | Comment | By FloydThursby1941 in response to Lawsuit seeks instruction intervention at 5 high schools
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tweets</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://pbs.twimg.com/profile_images/691833871988532994/597cJcici_400x400.jpg" alt="EdSource" /></td>
<td>EdSource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://pbs.twimg.com/profile_images/691833871988532994/597cJcici_400x400.jpg" alt="EdSource" /></td>
<td>@EdSource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Healthy kids make better kids.&quot; Schools help families enroll in @CoveredCA. FEB 15 deadline! edsource.org/2015/schools-h... pic.twitter.com/eI9RSqsTE9</td>
<td>40m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://pbs.twimg.com/profile_images/691833871988532994/597cJcici_400x400.jpg" alt="EdSource" /></td>
<td>EdSource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://pbs.twimg.com/profile_images/691833871988532994/597cJcici_400x400.jpg" alt="EdSource" /></td>
<td>@EdSource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website @KhanAcademy launches @LearnStorm2015, 3-month math comp for 3rd-12th graders that teaches a #GrowthMindset! edsource.org/2015/khan-acad...</td>
<td>1h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jane Adams</strong></td>
<td>@JaneAdams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://pbs.twimg.com/profile_images/691833871988532994/597cJcici_400x400.jpg" alt="Jane Adams" /></td>
<td>Autism Speaks Alters Position On #Vaccines: &quot;Vaccines do not cause #autism&quot; #measles disabilityscoop.com/2015/02/09/aut...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retweeted by EdSource</td>
<td>Tweet to @EdSource</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**EdSource**

436 14th St.
Suite 1005
Oakland, CA 94612

PHONE 510-433-0421 | FAX 510-433-0422

edsource@edsorce.org

http://edsorce.org/2014/parent-program-helps-kids-reading-study-says/71038

2/10/2015