Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR):
0-5 Express

November 2018

-- Eat Together --
♥ SHARE A MEAL ♥

Mind in the Making (MITM)
Currently Registering:
Team Terrific
Bradenton
Saturdays & Sundays
9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Thanksgiving is a time of year when many of us reflect on what we are thankful for. Sometimes it's the small moments that make a BIG difference -- like sharing meals together.

Each day, we have an opportunity to create time to listen and share with the people we love most. Eating together is good for our spirit, our brain, and our health. Recent studies link regular family dinners with lower rates of substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and depression as well as higher grade-point averages and self-esteem. Studies also indicate that dinner conversation is a vocabulary-booster, and the stories told around the kitchen table help our kiddos build resilience.

You've heard us say it before and we will say it again...parents and families are the secret sauce - the perfect ingredient to add to any meal!

Source: TheFamilyDinnerProject.org

--- Starting Young ---
Creating a Culture of Family Engagement

(-total time: 4 minutes 30 seconds)

♥ Mind in the Making Favorites ♥

1. A learning adventure designed to help you and your kids thrive
2. Convenient dates, times, and locations / new classes
3. An excellent way to show the ♥ love ♥ to the little ones in your life
4. Moms, dads, and grandparents are welcome
5. FREE childcare
6. Meals Provided

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Making Connections is a fundamental part of the Executive Functions. Executive Function skills are skills you use to manage your attention, your feelings, your thoughts, and your behavior to reach your goals. They include being able to pay attention, remember information, think flexibly, and exercise self control. Making Connections often involves stepping back, considering alternatives, and then drawing a conclusion. Symbolic representation - when words or pictures stand in for real objects - is a way for children to make connections. Playing games brings in sequencing events, planning strategies, and using numerals and letters as ways to practice and expand symbolic representation -- examples of Executive Functions at work.

- Studies show that children are more likely to learn words when you point to an object as well as say its name. Making Connections among words, pictures, and objects promotes this executive function.

- Serve and Return, like game of ball, involves a back and forth conversation between you and your child where you listen, then build on and extend what your child says or does to promote learning. While sharing a meal together, ask your child to think about the difference between the various foods. If your child is younger, explain some of the differences using descriptive words like hot, cold, soft, crunchy, red, slimy, etc.

- When reading a book to your kiddo, stop and ask them questions. Try to get them connect to a similar memory they've experienced.

- When reading or doing other daily activities, point out colors, numbers, and shapes to your child. Ask them questions like, what else is this color? Is there another object in the area that has a similar shape?

We hope you will join us in the series of workshops for a learning adventure. Each Mind in the Making workshop provides participants the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences and practices, discover how children (and adults) learn best, and discuss how to apply the knowledge while learning about all 7 Essential Life Skills:

- Focus and Self Control
- Perspective Taking
- Communicating
- Making Connections
- Critical Thinking
- Taking On Challenges
- Self-Directed Engaged Learning

This program is an excellent way to improve communication, become a better role model, and demonstrate the essential life skills so your babies can be ready to learn (and it's SUPER fun!).

Mind in the Making is made possible by the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Support from The Patterson Foundation strengthens this initiative.
If you would like to have a series of workshops at your place of employment, church, or community organization, or are interested in participating in the workshops, please contact SCGLR at info@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net.

- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her/him feel comfortable and excited about learning.

- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.

- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

#EveryDayCounts

We welcome your thoughts. Contact us at info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net.