--- POWER OF PRESENCE ---

Book Circles

Joy Thomas Moore

Mind in the Making currently enrolling:

**Team Terrific**
Bradenton
Saturdays & Sundays
9:30am - 1:30pm

**Team Ultra -- SRQ**
Tuesdays
11:00am - 1:00pm

**Team Vibrant -- SRQ**
Tuesdays
2:45pm - 4:45pm

**Team Rose -- SRQ**
Wednesdays
11:00am - 1:00pm
As an investment in our community, The Patterson Foundation is bringing Joy Thomas Moore to the region to discuss her book, *The Power of Presence*.

In conjunction with the author's visit, The Patterson Foundation will support registered Book Circles throughout the Suncoast region.

This book will uplift and inspire all ages by telling stories of hope and explaining how *you can be a voice in a child's ear, even when you are not with them.*

**What is a Book Circle?**
A group of at least eight people who will read and discuss *The Power of Presence*.

**What support will be given by The Patterson Foundation?**
Each Book Circle of at least eight members will receive invitations to an event featuring Peabody Award Winner Joy Thomas Moore, a copy of *The Power of Presence* for each member of the group, a discussion guide, and $100 for each group meeting. Minimum of two meetings, max five.

**Where can I register to lead a Book Circle?**
[Register Here](#)

**Where can I join a Book Circle?**
[Join a Book Circle Here](#)

**-- MIND IN THE MAKING --**
Creating a Culture of Family Engagement
♥ 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

The 7 Essential Life Skills:
#4 Making Connections

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 a 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 to 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:

Wow. What a year! 49,911 posters, almost 50K!!!, were submitted for SCGLR's Attendance Awareness Poster Contest from 82 schools in our 4-county region.

Aside from the addition of DeSoto and Charlotte counties, new participants also included 28 private preschool centers and 25 VPK classes in elementary schools from Florida's Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, DeSoto counties.

Take me out to the ball game...480 school-level winners will receive four tickets to Major League Baseball Spring Training games as a gift from SCGLR with support from The Patterson Foundation.

According to their region, kiddos and their guests will attend a Baltimore Orioles game on February 23, a Tampa Bay Rays game on March 2 or a Pittsburgh Pirates game on March 9. Each ticket holder will also receive a complimentary drink and snack ticket because a baseball game just isn't the same without...
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 FREE 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.

We would be amiss if we didn’t mention the OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS who shared their gift of time by helping SCGLR frame 960 winning posters -- one for each winner, and one for their school.

For those of you who couldn't attend SCGLR's Community Update Breakfast, enjoy this 90-second snippet of the Strive for Less Than Five "flash mob."

If you haven't seen the original music video, you can view it HERE.

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