

Monthly Family Newsletter

March 2022

MARCH IS READING MONTH!



Meet the Educare Family!

LASHAN COOK

LaShan Cook works as a lead teacher and has worked at Educare Flint since they first opened. She loves shopping, the color purple, and the fall season. Her very favorite food is a toss-up between anything Mexican or seafood. LaShan's favorite book to curl up with is *The Napping House* by Audrey Wood. If LaShan could have any superpower it would be to read a child's mind because they are so curious and can't verbally express their mind.

"I love working at Educare Flint because first, I love, love love, young children. Also, the staff at Educare is great to work with. We have a diverse connection between each other that is phenomenal. I have always felt respected in this building as a person. Last but not least I have an awesome director, Dr. Jodi Ramos. She amazes me how she handles the building, staff, and families at Educare."

From Our Parent Navigator

KATY NUNN

As we transition into spring this month, many of us find ourselves thinking about the future and the warmer weather and sunny skies that are soon to come, but the month of March is also a time to reflect both on the past and present by celebrating women in history and reading! Take time to read about the many contributions of women in history and to also acknowledge the women of today who are making history. It is never too late to learn to advocate for what you believe in and take actionable steps to create changes that others may be reading about someday. Keep an eye out for our new Parent Ambassador cohort, as they begin to advocate for policies that will help all our families thrive.

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."

Michelle
Obama

It's Women's History Month and National Reading Month! This is the perfect time to read your favorite book by a woman author or books that celebrate women's achievements and contributions to society! Reading plays an important role in a student's success in school.

Here are 10 interactive tips to encourage learning to read at home.

1. Use songs and nursery rhymes to build phonemic awareness.

The rhyme and rhythm help kids to hear sounds and syllables in words, which helps them learn to read.

2. Make simple word cards at home. Make simple cards with a word containing 3 sounds on each and read the word together while holding up three fingers. This will help them build essential phonics and decoding skills.

3. Engage your child in a print-rich environment. Seeing printed words (posters, books, etc.) helps children to see and apply connections between sounds and letter symbols. When you're out and about, point out letters on posters, billboards and signs.

4. Play word games at home or in the car. Introducing simple word games regularly will encourage your child to listen, identify and manipulate the sounds in words.

5. Understand the core skills involved in teaching kids to read. It is important to involve the different skills that learning to read involves which include: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and fluency.

6. Play with letter magnets. Prepare letter magnets on the fridge and pull the vowels to one side (a, e, i, o, u). To help them, say each vowel sound aloud while pointing at its letter, and ask your child which one makes a sound similar to the middle sound.

7. Harness the power of technology to keep your child engaged. Use technology at home as a way to explore new worlds, make believe and actively engage in fun and challenging activities.

8. Read together daily and ask questions about the book. Many skills can be picked up by children through the simple act of reading to a child.

9. Play games to memorize high-frequency sight words everyday. Learning to identify and read sight words is essential for young children to become fluent readers.

10. Be patient. The best way to teach kids to read is to make it fun!

From Our Executive Director

JA'NEL JAMERSON

As we celebrate Women's History Month, an annual celebration of the contribution's women have had on American history, **here are some books to help educate the children in your life about women's history:**

- *I am Rosa Parks*
- *Brave Ballerina*
- *Little Leaders*
- *She Persisted & Voice of Freedom.*



EDUCARE FLINT

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Mark Your Calendars:

Important Dates

- **March 3rd:** Parent Café on Zoom 9:30 am
- **March 10th:** EduShare Market Curbside Pick-up
- **March 16th:** GISD Head Start Parent Policy Committee on Zoom: 9:00 AM
- **March 18th:** Student Half - Day
- **March 28th - April 1st:** NO SCHOOL; Spring Break



From Our Family Engagement Coordinator

MIKE KILDEE

We all want to see our children grow and be successful in school and in life. Reading with our children is a very simple and enjoyable activity that has many benefits for your children.

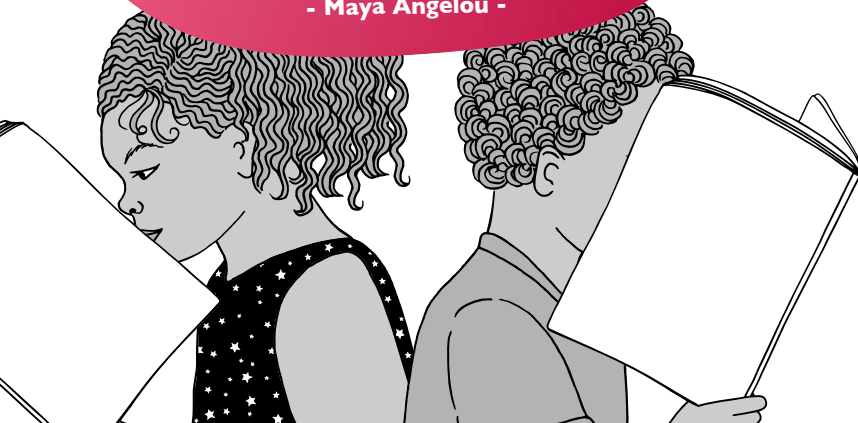
- Reading will **boost your child's vocabulary** and make them better readers and writers as they get older.
- Reading together will **expand your child's view of the world** and help them develop empathy towards others.
- Reading also **builds confidence** which is so important for children in achieving whatever it is that they want to accomplish in life.

Make a plan to read with your child every day! The benefits of reading to you child now will stay with them for their entire life!

Maya Angelou is a successful poet, author and civil right activist. Below are her word of inspiration.

When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young."

- Maya Angelou -



From Our School Director

JODI RAMOS

There are many benefits of reading to your children. It's undeniable that a child's reading skills are important to their success in school, work, and life in general. It is very possible to help ensure your child's success by reading to them starting at a very young age. Whether you're reading a classic novel or fairy tales before bed, reading aloud to children can significantly benefit your child's life. Some benefits of reading to children include supported cognitive development, Improved language skills, preparation for academic success, developing a special bond with your child, increased concentration and discipline, improved imagination, creativity, and cultivating a lifelong love of reading. Reading aloud to children is truly the single-most-important activity for building these understanding and skills essential for reading success that your child will carry with them throughout their life.

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

**Student "A" reads
20 Minutes each day.
3600 minutes in a
school year**

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

**Student "B" reads
5 Minutes each day.
900 minutes in a
school year**

282,000 words



50th percentile

**Student "C" reads
1 Minutes each day.
180 minutes in a
school year**

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which students would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Scan this QR code to complete the health check survey each morning.



THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO BE A PART OF YOUR FAMILY! f @in @EducareFlint