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THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE

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C4P News

Raising Readers: Parenting for Literacy

Research Update

Students coming from lower-income families, on average, do not start on the same level as their peers in school. However, a recent article by Hindman and Morrison (2011), found that greater parental involvement in the homes of children in Head Start programs positively influenced the child's learning outcomes. The following are very simple practices to share with parents about ways to supplement their child's learning and education.

- Children who were taught letters and words at home had better decoding skills than children who were not taught at home.
- Children whose parents read to them and/or volunteered in the classroom had a greater ability to learn vocabulary over the school year.
- Children of parents who were overall more involved at home (including teaching letters and words, talking to their children, and playing counting games) showed better overall learning development than peers whose parents were less involved.

Reference: Hindman, A.H., & Morrison, F.J. (2011). Family involvement and educator outreach in Head Start: Nature, Extent, and Contributions to Early Literacy Skills. *The Elementary School Journal*, 111 (3), 359-386.

Featured Family Program

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a free service that operates in East Tennessee. Each month, the company "mails a brand new, age-appropriate book to enrolled children from birth until five years of age, creating a home library of up to 60 books." Through program replication this service is reaching more children making more books available to a wider range of communities. For information on programs in your area, visit: <http://www.imaginationlibrary.com/>

Featured Resource

-The **Children's Book of the Month Club** provides an easy way to shop for quality children's books at lowered prices. Currently they're offering six books for \$2 with membership purchase. Visit them at: <http://cbomc.com/>

C4P Trivia Question

According to schoolsparks.com, at what age does a child recognize their name by sight?

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Five

The first person to send the correct answer to center4parenting@utk.edu will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card!

Featured Book

I Love Letters! More than 200 Quick and Easy Activities to Introduce Young Children to Letters and Literacy was written by Jean Feldman and Holly Karapetkova. This activity book is full of good ideas to help young children learn to read and have fun while they're doing it. Many age groups are included as well as activities that promote family interaction.

Training and Events

- Did you know that September is National Literacy Month?
- Also, September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month.
- NCFR's (National Council of Family Relations) is offering free early learning webinars beginning in October:
<http://www.ncfr.org/events/free-webinars-early-learning>
 - Oct 12th – Ready, Set, Go! Preparing Children for the Kindergarten Transition
 - Nov 14th – How is Screen Time and Interactive Media Affecting My Child's Development?
 - Dec 12th – Sleeplessness in American: Is This Child Misbehavior or Missing Sleep?
- Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare: October 28th- Chattanooga, TN- www.tcsnw.org

C4P Update

The new semester has started at UT, and with it comes three new staff members at the C4P.

Kate Dixon (Master's student in Experimental Psychology, Developmental concentration)

Abbey Schlater (Master's student in Audiology and Speech Pathology)

Akiko Watabe (PhD student in the Child and Family Studies Department)