

Dear Parents,

I found some important information on the internet, and I wanted to share it with you! The topic is providing models of literacy for your children.

Did you know. . .

It's very very important for adults to 'model' reading and writing for children! If you show your love of reading, and let your child know that you get information from books, you are helping him or her value reading. If you let your child see you writing to share information, you are making it more likely that s/he will want to learn to write.

Students with disabilities may have less literacy models than their peers without disabilities. For example, a child in a wheelchair, sitting in a beanbag chair in the family room, or in the bedroom may miss quick literacy events such as:

- a sister looking up a number in the telephone book
- Dad writing a note to the water delivery service
- Mom reading in bed before going to sleep.

What to Do? Just recognize how important your models are! When you're reading a really good book or magazine article, talk about it to your child. When you're writing something, show it to your child. Advance planning helps! Think about how you can model reading and writing. Here are a few ideas:

- Mom is looking in the T.V. Guide to find out when a favorite show is on - she sits next to Luke who is in a beanbag chair, and shows him the T.V. guide - they look at it together.
- Big brother is looking up a date in the encyclopedia. He tells Kelly, who is in a wheelchair what he's doing - and shows her the picture of the printing press, when he finds it.
- Grandma is writing a list for the grocery store. She sits next to Jamal, who is in his power chair, and talks aloud while making the list, showing it to him from time to time.
- When they go to the grocery store, Dad has a few coupons. He takes them out and asks Nikki to help him find them - they look together for Cocoa Puffs!

Summary: These ideas should just be included into your everyday life - don't make a fuss, just enjoy reading and writing, and let your child know that you do!

Cordially,