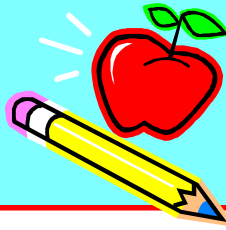




Who Knew?, New News!



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November Newsletter

Should You Bribe Your Kids to Read?

By: Allison McDonald

Yes, if you have to.

Before I was a parent, I was full of wonderful advice for parents. I had taught children for years and was confident in the advice I gave. It came from experience, it came from research, and it came from the heart. I loved my students.

Then I became a parent and doling out advice with 100 percent confidence ceased. These days I don't give advice nearly as much as I simply commiserate. One thing that I have changed my view on is bribery.

I used to turn my nose up on bribery believing that children need to be intrinsically motivated for things like potty training, sleeping through the night, and yes, reading for fun. Now, I think parents need to use whatever fits best with their child if their child is reluctant. This isn't scientifically based advice; it's parent to parent advice. This is what I would say over a cup of coffee to a girlfriend who is worried that her eight-year old has zero desire to read. In fact, this is exactly what I told my friend: Use whatever currency you have, because learning to read is non-negotiable.

Reading isn't a subject in school — it's a tool for life, and essential for learning. The stakes are too high to not use bribery on principle. I personally wouldn't start out with it, but my kids aren't your kids and I trust you know what's best for your children.

Reading may be a blast for you and me, but for some kids it's anything but fun. A dollar a book, getting to watch screens (TV, video games, etc.) for a certain number of pages, or getting out of dreaded chores if you are reading make perfect sense to me.

When it comes to reading our job as parents is to provide materials, help motivate, and look out for trouble. Hopefully providing great materials that your child wants to read will help make reading a part of your family routine, and by offering help when needed, you can avoid ever having to bribe your child. However, you won't be judged by me if bribery makes it into your home. Some things are too important not to use whatever you have to, and reading is one of those things.

How have you motivated your children to read when they really weren't into it?



Citizenship Assembly

For the month of November the students will be working on fairness. Second grade will be presenting at the assembly this month. The assembly will take place Friday, November 20th at 12:45 p.m. Please come out and support the children if you can.

10 Top Math Apps for Elementary School Children

Taken from mathandreadinghelp.org

1. Sums Stacker--The appeal of Sums Stacker is that it feels more like a puzzle than a study aid. Users are presented with three columns of objects, such as dice or coins, and must move the items around until the objects in the columns add up to the sum shown at the bottom. The app is aimed at children seven and older.

2. Cash Cow--For many kids, using money to learn math helps the numbers feel more tangible. Cash Cow takes this concept and centers it around Buck the Cow, whose farm is deeply in debt. Users must help Buck find enough money to keep the farm afloat. In the process, kids learn about adding and using different denominations of coins.

3. Numbers League--An adaptation of a little-known card game, Numbers League teaches and reinforces math concepts from basic arithmetic through advanced multiplication. Users control superheroes that have a series of numbers assigned to their heads, bodies, and feet, to defeat villains who also have numbers assigned to them. Your kids can play by themselves, against a computer opponent or against other human players.

4. Park Math--Park Math teaches very basic counting skills as kids interact with animals at a playground. For example, kids must count ducks as they use a slide and balance the mice on a seesaw. This app won the 2011 Parents' Choice Silver Award winner from the Parents' Choice Foundation and the 2010 iLounge Best Kids' iPhone/iPod App of the Year Award.

5. Meteor Math--A variation on the old Asteroids video game, Meteor Math combines arcade thrills with educational math drills. As meteors with numbers printed on them fly around, users must choose two to collide in order to make the number provided at the top of the screen. Users can test themselves using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. Wrong answers cost player lives, while correct answers help users advance through the levels.

6. Cute Math--Cute Math is aimed at beginning math students. It includes six games that test counting skills, addition and subtraction. Though simple, the app uses fun sound effects and animation to keep kids engaged and learning.

7. Number Rumble--Designed by Leap Frog, Number Rumble has an interface that looks like a slot machine. The first three columns include two numbers with a mathematical operator in the middle. The fourth column shows the possible result of the equation. Users shake the device to generate a problem, and then they must identify the correct answer.

8. Math Magic--This app tests students' knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The problems are multiple choice and if the user chooses the correct answer, a voice offers congratulations. An incorrect answer will prompt encouraging words and an opportunity to try again.

9. Fractions App--The descriptively-named Fractions App helps kids become familiar with interpreting fractions and performing mathematical operations that involve fractions. The app includes several different types of fraction tests, including Identify, which uses diagrams to help kids understand how fractions work. In addition to the games, there is a tutorial on the concepts behind fractions.

10. Math Bingo--Math and bingo unite in this educational game aimed at children seven years and older. Users must answer simple math problems laid out on a bingo board. Answering correctly earns a Bingo Bug for that space. The goal, as with bingo, is to get five in a row.



Citizenship Assembly Character Traits

December and January—Respect, 3rd Grade

February—Caring, Kindergarten

March—Honesty, 4th Grade

April—All Traits, 6th Grade

Labels Information

Every time a class turns in a thousand labels they earn a free recess. At the end of the year, the class that has turned in the most labels will receive a prize. Here are the results as of October 27:

Kindergarten—567

1st Grade—776

2nd Grade—597

3rd Grade—506

4th Grade—1557

5th Grade—186

6th Grade—138

Upcoming Events

November 5—Ormazd

November 13—Dismiss at 12:15 p.m.

November 16—No School

November 17-20—American Education Week

November 18—Grandparent's Day

November 20—Citizenship Assembly at 12:45 p.m.

November 25-27—No School, Thanksgiving Break

Reminders to Parents

- All lunch money is due at the beginning of the week.
- If lunches exceed the \$10 limit, an alternate lunch will be served.