

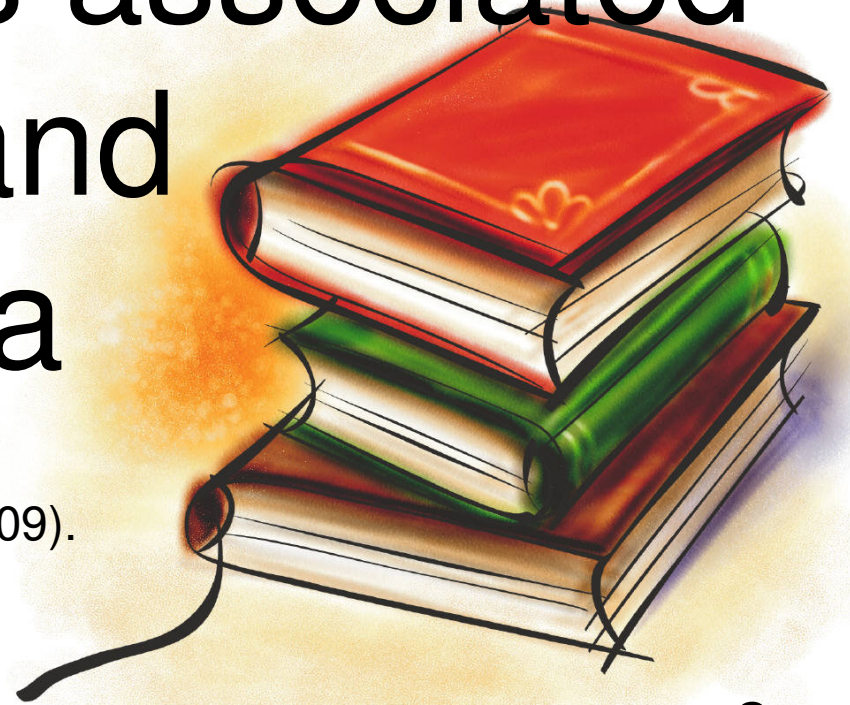
Family Literacy

Motivating Literacy Activities to Use with Your Middle School Student at Home

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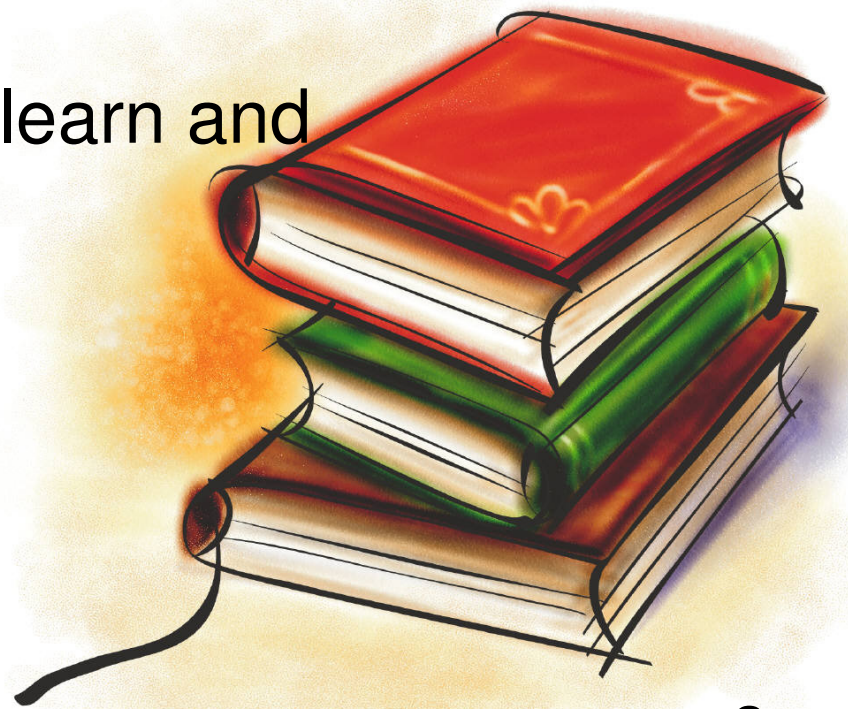
What is Literacy?

- Literacy refers to the skills and behaviors associated with reading and writing within a culture (Lipson & Wixon, 2009).



What is Family Literacy?

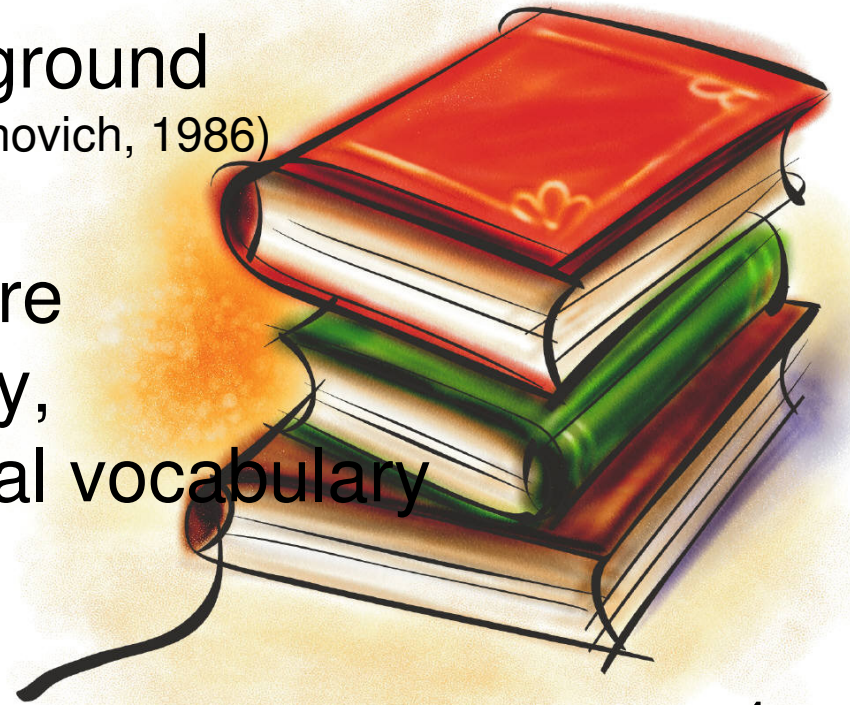
- Family literacy refers to families working together to create an environment where mutual learning can take place (Smith, 1991).
- It includes the way people learn and use literacy at home
(Crawford & Zygouris-Coe, 2006).



Practice Makes Perfect

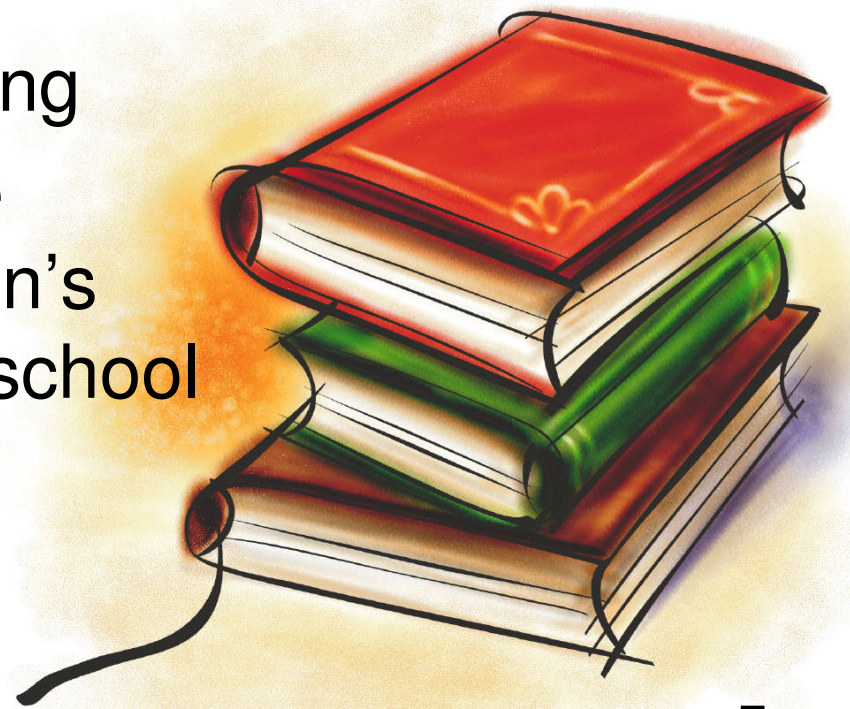
Reasons to Encourage Reading at Home

- Matthew Effect in Reading (Stanovich, 1986)
- Students who do not read in their free time eventually lose academic ground (Anderson, Wilson, & Fielding, 1988; Stanovich, 1986)
- Students who read more are proficient in reading fluency, comprehension and general vocabulary development (Worthy, 2002)



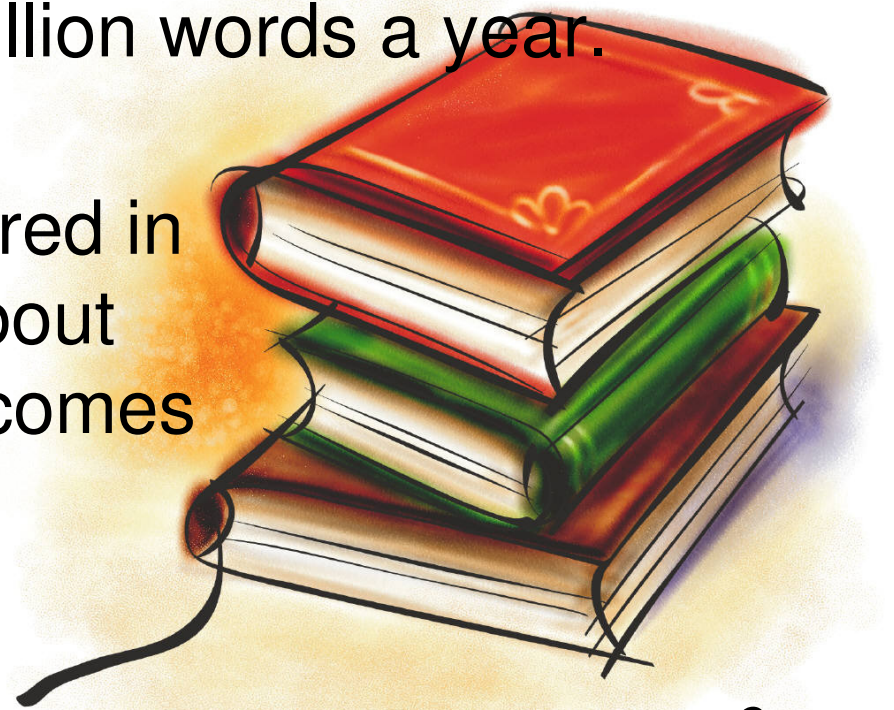
Why is this important to student learning and achievement?

- When schools and families collaborate, the likelihood for student success is enhanced (Darling & Lee, 2004).
- Research has found a strong connection between home environment and children's success with literacy in school (Morrow & Paratore, 1993).



Let's take a look at the numbers

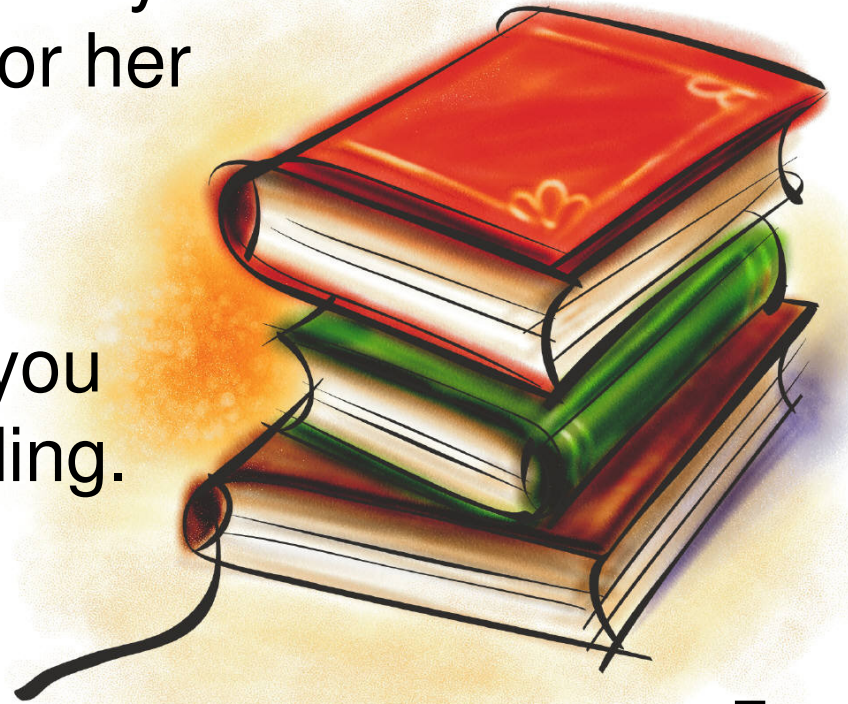
- Students who typically scored in the 98th percentile on state tests read about 65 minutes independently per day (in and out of school) which comes out to 4 ½ million words a year.
- Students who typically scored in the 50th percentile read about 4 ½ minutes daily, which comes out to a mere 200,000 words per year.



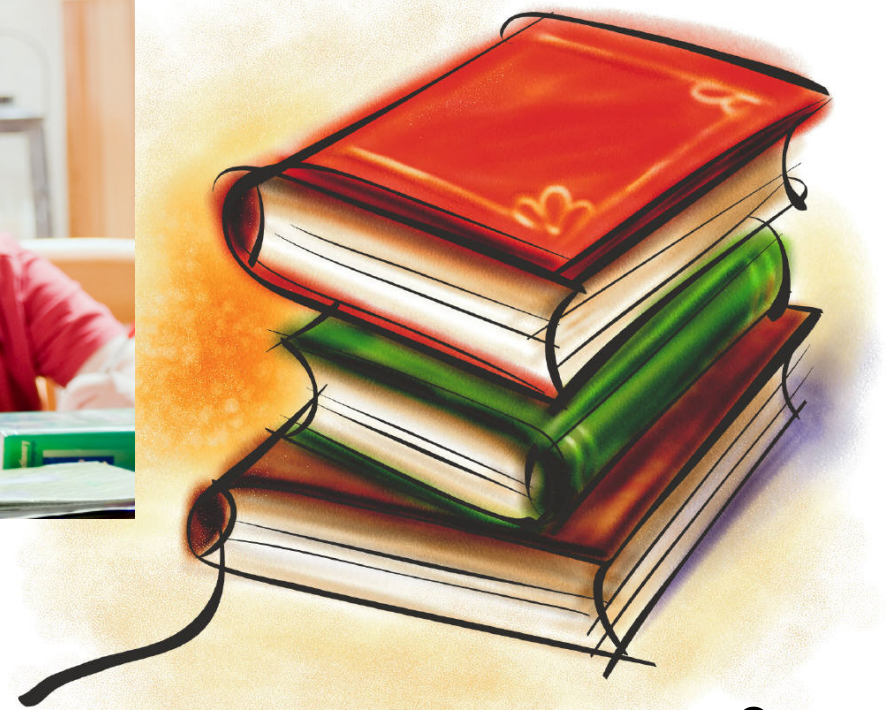
(Anderson, Wilson, & Fielding, 1988)

Text-sorting Activity

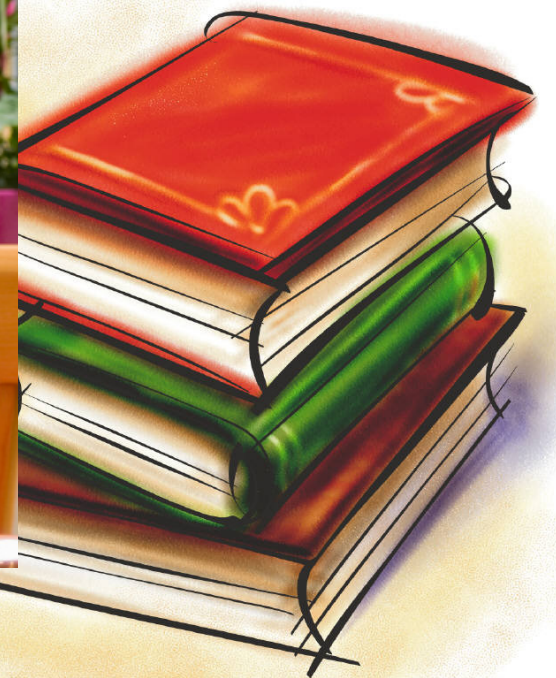
- Go through the different texts in the bin.
- Choose the text that you think your child should be reading to increase his or her reading skills.
- Then choose the text that you are most interested in reading.



Too much of this...



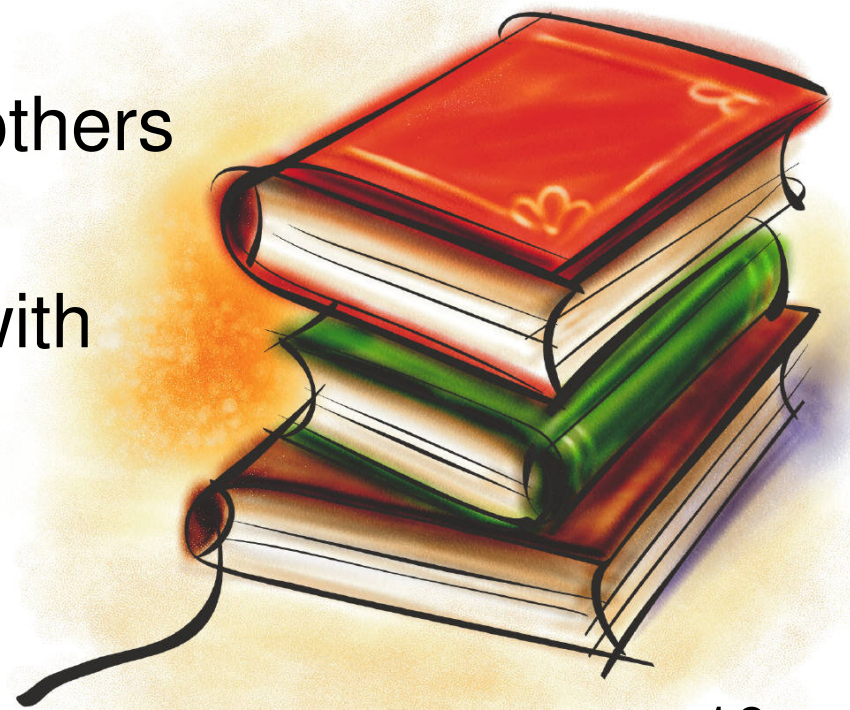
Not enough of this...



Motivation to Read

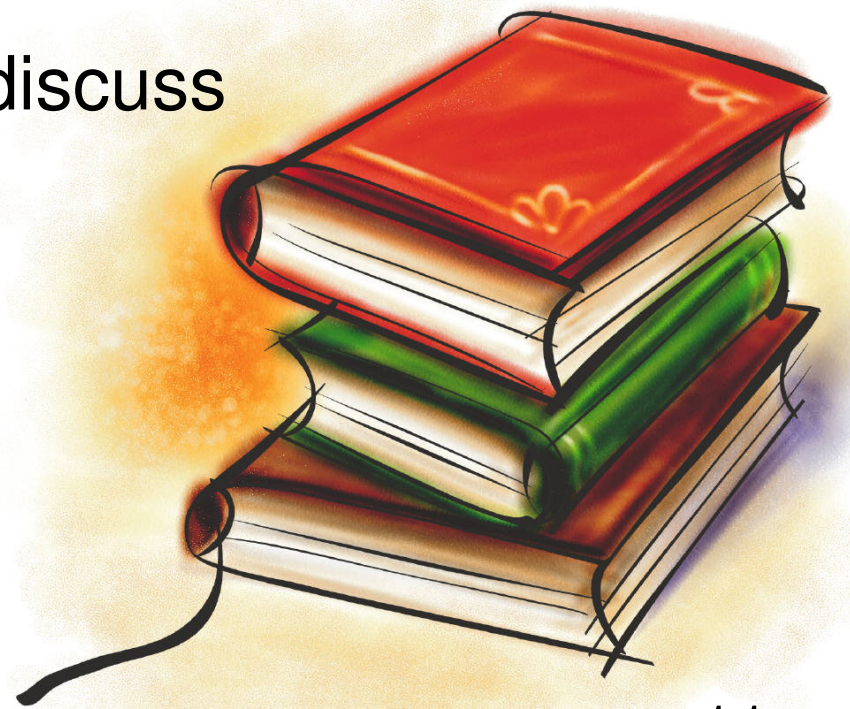
Students are motivated to read when:

- They can choose their texts from a large variety of genres and types of text
- They can discuss text with others
- Literacy experiences tie in with their cultures
- They are read aloud to
(von Rembow, 2006; Gambrell, 1996)



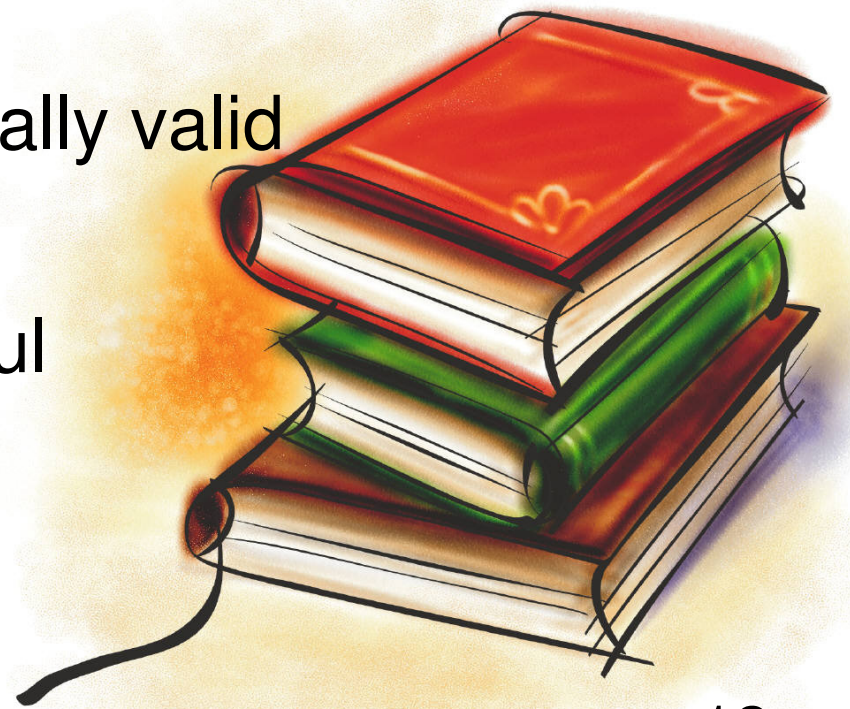
What can you do at home to encourage reading?

- Library cards
- Internet
- Take turns reading aloud
- Read the same book and discuss
- Read the newspaper
- Go to the bookstore
- Listen to audio books
- Read a manual
- Read to a younger child



Writing: Another Aspect of Literacy

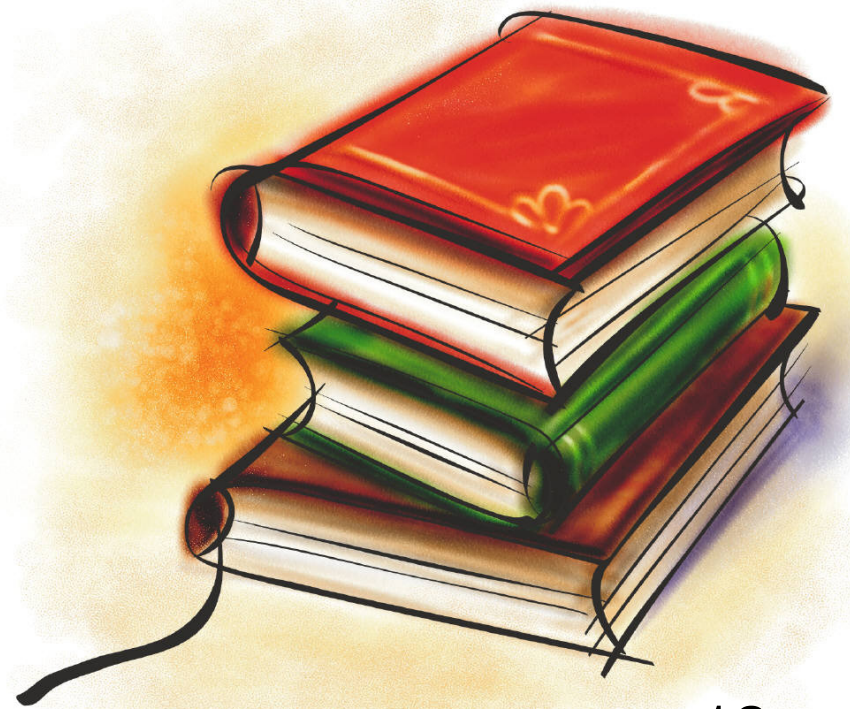
- Students should practice different types of real writing (Cooks, 2004)
- All types of writing are equally valid (Cooks, 2004)
- Authentic writing is powerful (Kixmiller, 2004)



Writing at Home

Technology-Based:

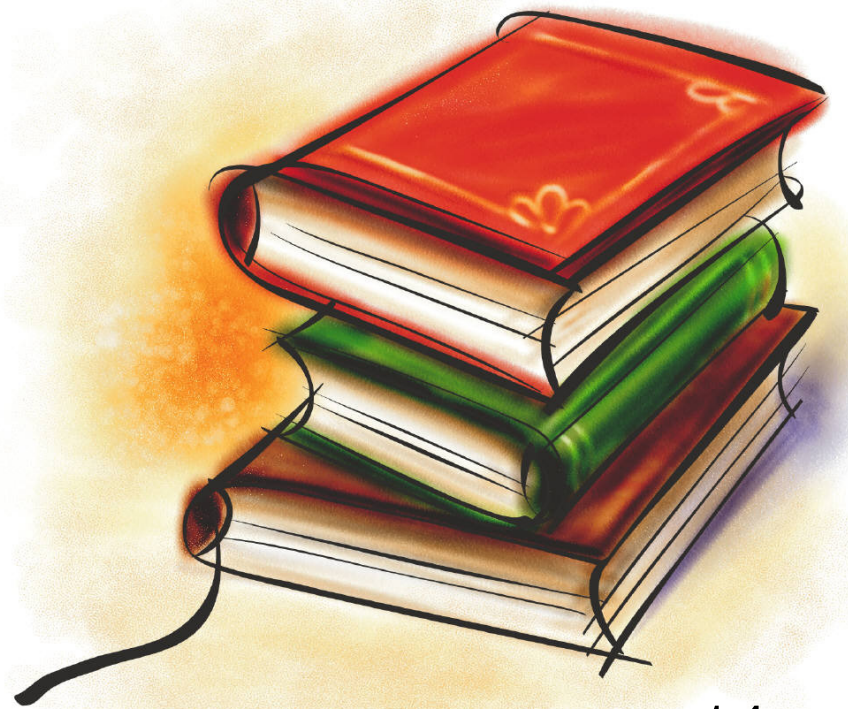
- Blogging
- Emailing
- Writing an online review of product



Writing at Home

Traditional Paper/Pencil Experiences:

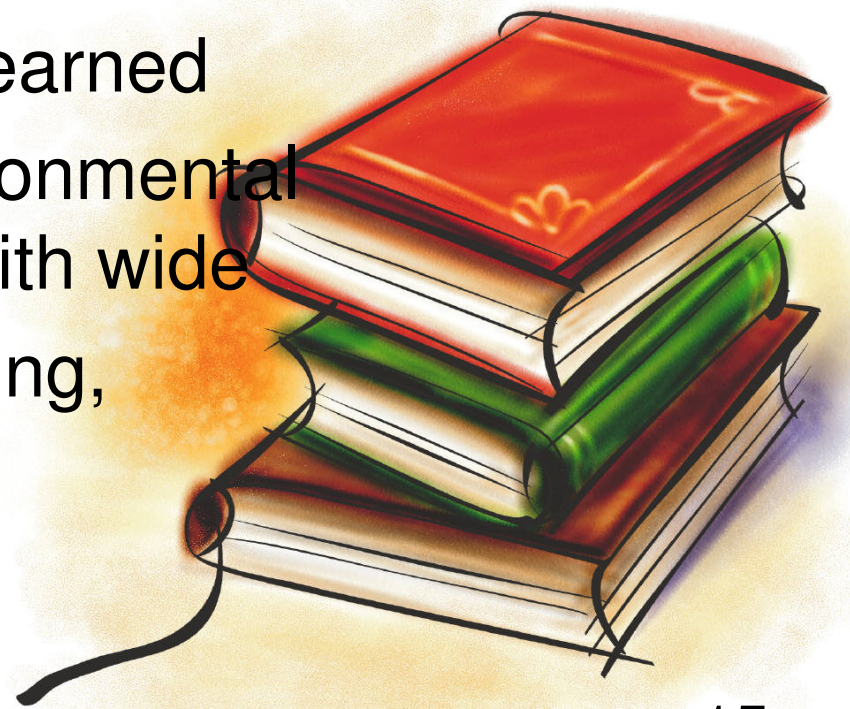
- Journaling
- Writing cards
- Writing letters
- Recording family history, traditions, recipes, etc.
- Writing creatively
- Writing To Do lists



Vocabulary Development

- School-age children learn 3,000 to 4,000 words per year on average (Nagy & Anderson, 1984)
- Many of these words are learned through incidental or environmental learning that happens with wide reading, discussion, listening, and media

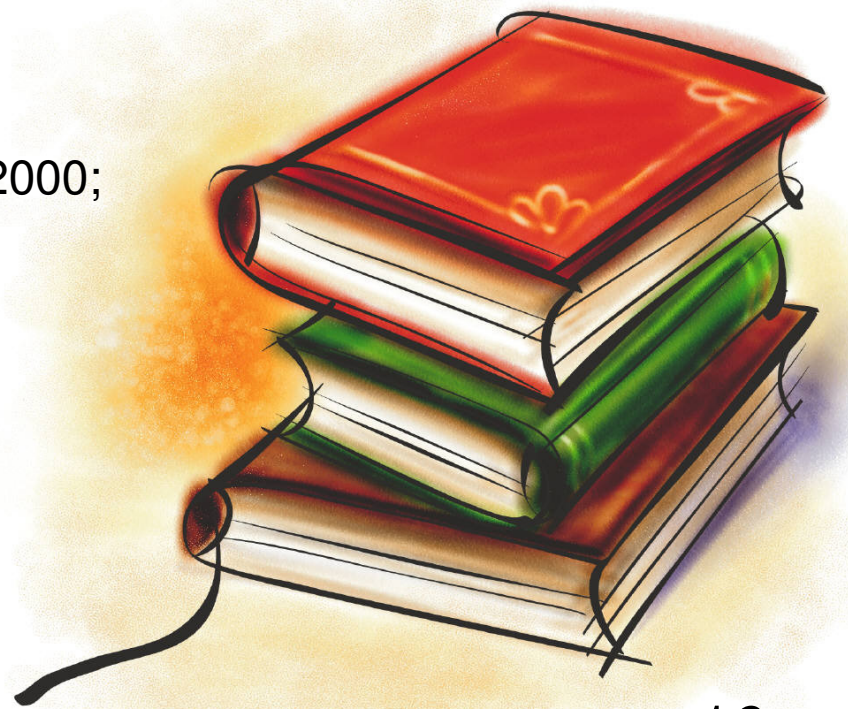
(Blachowicz & Fisher, 2010)



Why learn vocabulary?

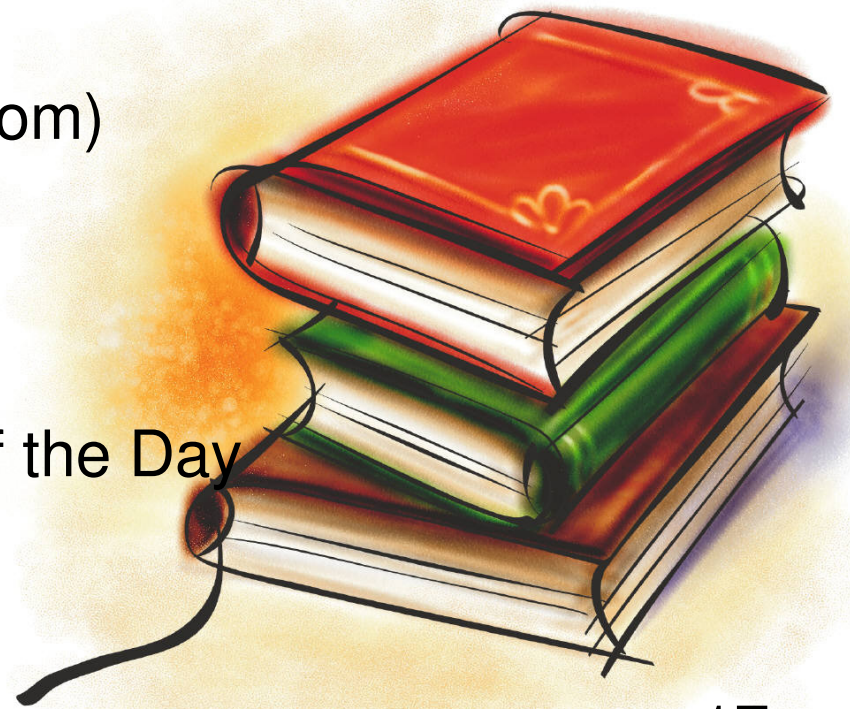
- Vocabulary knowledge is a factor in reading comprehension

(Bauman & Kameenui, 1991; Nagy & Scott, 2000; National Reading Panel, 2000).



Vocabulary at Home

- **Tools for motivating students and developing their interest in words:**
 - Traditional word games
 - Online word games (Pogo.com)
 - Riddles, jokes, puzzles
 - Word sites, such as Word of the Day (Blachowicz & Fisher, 2004)



Final Thoughts

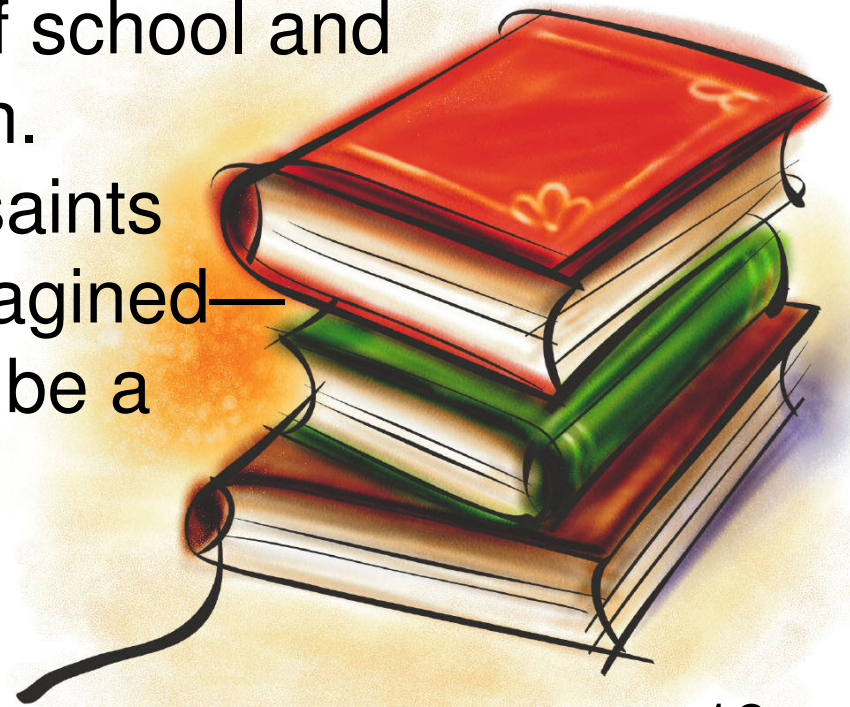
- Read more often with a variety of texts for real reasons.
- Choice matters!
- Encourage writing for real reasons
- Make vocabulary fun!
- Be a literacy role model!



A quote to leave with...

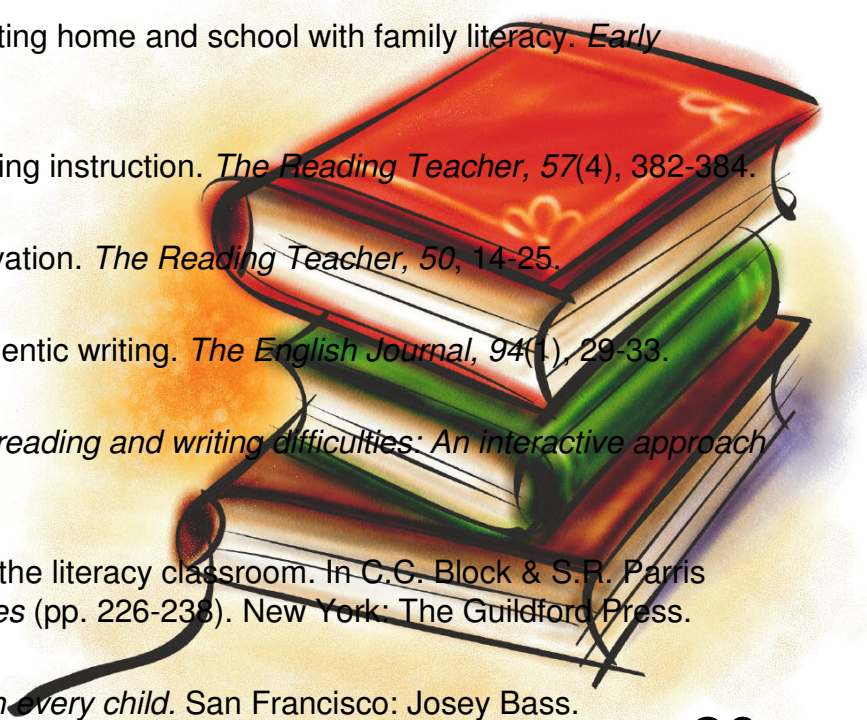
- “Reading changes your life. Reading unlocks worlds unknown or forgotten, taking travelers around the world and through time. Reading helps you escape the confines of school and pursue your own education. Through characters—the saints and the sinners, real or imagined—reading shows you how to be a better human being”

(Miller, 2009, p. 18).



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