

ABC 12 BACK-TO-SCHOOL NOTES

Help Your Children To Become Enthusiastic Readers

The first milestone in a child's school career is learning to read.

But long before students learn to make sense of the letters and words on the page, they have begun developing the skills and attitudes that will help make them readers.

Betty Jean Foust, chief reading consultant for the N. C. Department of Public Instruction, says reading skills and attitudes about reading begin very early in children.

"Children who grow up watching their parents reading and enjoying it learn quickly that reading is important and that it is fun, not work," Foust says. "The whole foundation for reading is really the parents."

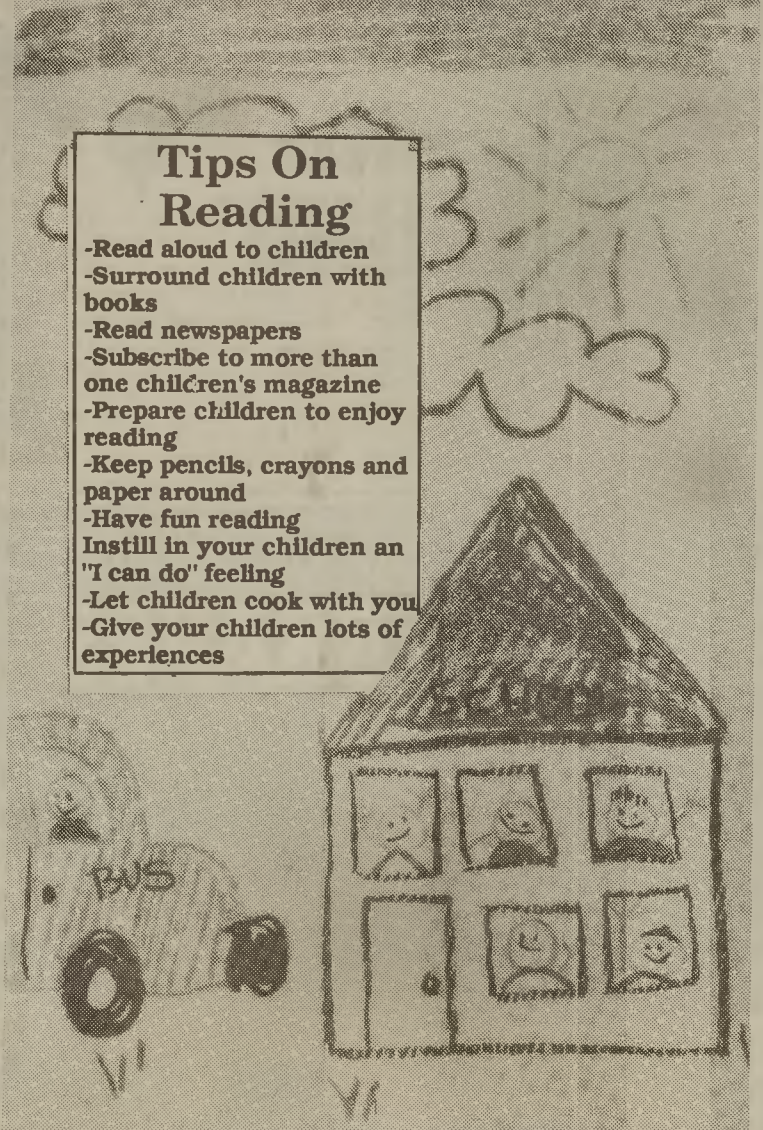
And, good readers tend to do well in school. They also tend to be well-adjusted, confident students.

Foust offers a checklist of tips for parents who want to help their children become enthusiastic readers:

- Read aloud to your children, no matter how young or old they are. But don't read when the child is not calm or is not interested. Often reading aloud is best done at a regular time, such as after dinner or at bedtime.
- Surround children with books that have topics that interest them. If your child loves motorcycles, find books that have motorcycles in them. Often, the children's librarian at the public library can help find books on specific topics.
- Read newspapers. Children love reading the comics with their parents.
- Subscribe to one or more of the many children's magazines available. Many "adult" magazines, such as *The National Geographic*, offer children's versions, too. Be sure the magazines are addressed to the child since children love to receive mail.
- Don't force children to learn the mechanics of reading before they are ready. Just prepare them to enjoy reading.
- Keep pencils, crayons and paper around for children to

Tips On Reading

- Read aloud to children
- Surround children with books
- Read newspapers
- Subscribe to more than one children's magazine
- Prepare children to enjoy reading
- Keep pencils, crayons and paper around
- Have fun reading
- Instill in your children an "I can do" feeling
- Let children cook with you
- Give your children lots of experiences



play with. Praise efforts to copy letters, draw or scribble.

• Worry about having fun more than you worry about measuring the results of your efforts to encourage reading. This is not a contest.

• Instill in your children an "I can do" feeling. What does your child do well? Whatever it is, praise it. The self-confidence that results will help them learn to read.

• Let children cook with you. Recipes teach children several skills: reading, following directions and doing things in sequence.

• Give children plenty of different kinds of experiences. Take them to museums, concerts, farms and other places where they can broaden their experiences. Children are more interested in reading about chickens if they have seen chickens.

Volunteers Can Help At Schools

When school starts each fall, there are new teachers, new students and new principals, for everyone to meet. But some of the new faces are not school employees or students, but volunteers.

"We are grateful for the volunteers who continue to support public schools," State Superintendent Bob Etheridge said. "The state of North Carolina could not afford to pay for the many hours of assistance volunteers offer, and yet all of the services volunteers provide are important."

Volunteers read to children, design bulletin board displays, demonstrate crafts and science experiments, comfort sick children waiting to go home, and help mail letters to parents. They help on field trips, shelve library books, sponsor after-school scouting programs, and lecture on topics of their expertise. This list just begins to describe what volunteers do for children in North Carolina's public schools.

The Department of Public Instruction estimates that at least 165,000 citizens contribute their time to schools during one typical year. Together, their efforts equal more than two million hours of working for public schools and their students.

The number of volunteers in the schools has been growing since 1977 when the General Assembly passed the North Carolina Community Schools Act, mandating the promotion of citizen involvement in public schools. Only a handful of other states have such a legislative mandate.

As the number has increased, the type of person volunteering in the schools has changed as well. Volunteers are parents who don't work outside the home, working parents, retired people in the community, business and government leaders and non-parents.

Scheduling is more difficult for such a cross section of people, but when volunteering schedules can be creative, more people are able to contribute. Working parents, for example, couldn't spare an entire morning to work in their children's school, but they might be able to come on their lunch hour and

read with children.

For information about volunteering in your school, contact

the school system school-community relations coordinator or your school principal.

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Bi-Lo's Computer Classroom Program

GREENVILLE, SC - Shopping at Bi-Lo grocery stores can help local schools receive free IBM computer equipment, according to a program introduced recently by Marsh Collins, president of Bi-Lo. The "Computers for Classrooms" program - sponsored by Bi-Lo - makes it possible for schools K-12 to obtain free IBM computer equipment through the redemption of Bi-Lo cash register receipts.

"We are showing, by example, how the private corporate sector can directly enhance the push for quality education," Collins emphasized. "Equally important, we are structuring our program at the very grassroots level of education, whereby principals, teachers, parents, students - everybody can get involved."

To receive the free IBM personal computers, printers and

software, schools collect Bi-Lo register receipts throughout the 1989-1990 school year. Participating schools can receive a free IBM System 2 Personal Computer by amassing \$195,000 in Bi-Lo register receipts. There is no limit on the number of systems a school can receive. Additional receipts can be used to obtain additional computers, printers, and software packages from the Bi-Lo "Computer for Classrooms" IBM catalog.

When a school collects the necessary volume of register receipts, it just drops them off along with a "Computer for Classrooms" order form at its local Bi-Lo store to receive its free computer equipment. A local IBM education specialist will then arrange to deliver and install the computer equipment and train school personnel to

operate the new technology.

To get the program started, Bi-Lo will give each school that signs up for the program a \$20,000 bonus receipt certificate toward the IBM computer equipment. School principals have received an information package about the Bi-Lo "Computers for Classrooms" program. More information on the program can be obtained by contacting Bi-Lo coordinators at 803-234-1759.

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