

# GPS Title I Newsletter

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A whole new year and it is time to decide what you are going to do with it! With days like **Motivation and Inspiration Day** (Jan. 2nd), and **National CanDo Day** (Jan. 4th), there are plenty of days to celebrate and focus on getting things done this month!

**Have math fun with words!**

Try this fun family math puzzle:

Give each letter of the alphabet a monetary value. A is one cent, B is two cents, etc.

Next, ask:

- Whose name is worth the most?
- Who can think of a jewel that’s worth the most? Is gold worth more than rust?
- How many words can you think of that are worth exactly \$1?
- What is the shortest word you can find that is worth the most?

**Retelling Enhances Reading**

Research shows that retelling stories they’ve read helps students become more thoughtful readers. As your child retells a story, offer open ended prompts, such as “What happened next?” If your child doesn’t remember, just say, “Let’s go back and read that part again.” Your child will learn that it is often necessary to read things more than once to fully grasp them.

Source: B.M. Taylor and J.E. Ysseldyke, Effective Instruction for Struggling Readers: K-6, Teachers College Press.

**Share Test-Taking Strategies**

Knowing a few basic strategies can boost test performance. Encourage your child to:

- \* *Read everything carefully*—directions, questions and answer choices.
- \* *Use time wisely*. If your child is stuck on a hard question, it’s better to move on and come back to that question after answering everything else.
- \* *Reduce multiple choice options*. Your child should cross out answers that can’t be right, then consider the remaining choices.



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February is “I Love to Read” month. That's right: an entire month dedicated to promoting a love of reading and being read to.

Reading allows families to connect, plus it is a great way to spend time together and slow down after a hectic day. Not only do kids feel important when they are read to, but families who have a positive attitude towards reading books, in turn, help their children positively view literacy.

### Encourage Excellence By Setting High, Achievable Expectations

Research shows that students tend to live up to parent and teacher expectations, whether they are high or low. So it’s important to set the bar high for your child.

Expectations should be realistic. If only near-perfection satisfies you, your child may think, “What’s the point?” and stop trying altogether. To set expectations that are high, realistic and effective, keep these guidelines in mind:

- Expect your child’s best efforts in all activities. Gear your expectations to your individual child. Avoid comparisons to siblings, classmates and others.
- Praise effort and progress. Express pride in your child, and remind your child to take pride in working hard.
- Show interest in what interests your child. Parents’ support for their children’s passions can motivate kids to try their best in all pursuits.
- Be a role model. Set high expectations for yourself and talk about how you plan to meet them. Let your child see you give your best effort.

Source: J.A. Fredericks and others, Handbook of Student Engagement Interventions, Academic Press.



## READING EVERY DAY...

- ...**CREATES** lifelong readers.
- ...**TEACHES** children to find adventure, ideas, and answers through books.
- ...**STRENGTHENS** relationships and creates memories as a family activity.
- ...**OPENS DOORS** through which children can learn about themselves.
- ...**BUILDS** a diverse vocabulary and strengthens fluency in reading.
- ...**ALLOWS** a child’s imagination and creativity to blossom.
- ...**GIVES** children the tools needed to become successful students.
- ...**TAKES** the “scary” out of reading in the classroom.
- ...**HELPS** children make connections to new places, people, and concepts.
- ...**AWAKENS** children to the world around them.



TODAY A READER  
TOMORROW A LEADER