

Talking Points – Select Quotes on the Importance of Reading

One report points out “the stronger their literacy skills, the more likely adults are to hold a full-time job, vote in national elections, participate in community organizations, volunteer and help their children with their homework” (Heller and Greenleaf, 2007).

Some researchers conclude that teaching generic reading strategies has merit for all teachers (Kamil, 2003).

A recent exhaustive study examined the role of homework in schools. The results revealed 22% of students spend less than 15 minutes on homework during the typical school day. And, 50% of students spend one hour daily. The report further points out that homework is a method of communication between home and school as well as parents, students and teachers.

There is evidence that we should be increasing rather than decreasing the amount of literacy instruction after third grade (Gillis, 2008).

Positive personal and school relationships with parents and families translate into strong family engagement, one of the most powerful indicators of student success.

From early childhood through high school, families play a significant role in student learning. When families are positively engaged, schools become places where all children do well (Ferguson, 2009).

We must embrace a new attitude regarding adolescent literacy, recognizing that reading is not a static skill, but one that needs to grow along with the individual (Darwin and Fleischman, 2005).

It takes 1.5 years to remediate a student entering 9th grade for each year the student is behind in reading level. A student entering the 9th grade with a 6th grade reading level would spend all of high school just trying to catch up (Dreschler, 2004).

O'Connor, Bintz and Murray, National Dropout Prevention Center, 2009