

NORWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“A DYNAMIC LEARNING COMMUNITY”

Office of the Principal

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KIDS ARE OUR BUSINESS!

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PARENT LETTER CONCERNING PHONEMIC AWARENESS READING PROGRAM for KINDERGARTEN, 1ST & 2ND GRADE STUDENTS AT NORWOOD ELEMENTARY

Dear Norwood Parents of Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade Students:

Beginning with the current academic school year, Norwood Elementary School is privileged to participate in a reading program sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Education. This is an opportunity for Norwood Elementary to teach and target a necessary early reading skill for all students.

The reading program will focus on phonemic awareness, a necessary early reading skill. Phonemic awareness, developed successfully at the Kindergarten and 1st Grade levels, is a primary contributing factor in later reading success. In a September 2001 *USA TODAY* newspaper article, it is stated that often help for reading occurs too late and that assistance needs to occur in preschool, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade. The West Virginia Department of Education has recognized this and is implementing this exciting early reading program in Norwood Elementary School!

Your child may or may not be participating in the reading program. Participation will be by whole class or small group instruction. The teachers administering the program have attended extensive training sessions to fully understand the program. This program may involve regular education and special education students. As the program is considered a part of the student's regular reading instruction, no special permission is required from parents should the child be selected to participate in the program.

Below are listed several suggestions for reinforcing phonemic awareness development at home with your pre-school, Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd Grade child:

- *Recite nursery rhymes or rhyming patterns such as “Jack & Jill,” “Humpty Dumpty,” and word patterns (ball, call, wall, and mall).*
- *Orally practice sound patterns. (Take off the “r” sound at the beginning of RAT and replace the sound “b;” what new word do you have? BAT)*
- *Read to your child. Talk about the pictures that relate to the print.*
- *Talk about proper use of a book. (Turn pages from left to right; read from top to bottom on a page.)*
- *Sing or listen to a tape of silly songs or rhyming songs. (CONTINUED ON BACK.....)*

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As always, if you ever have any comments and / or questions, please feel free to contact our school for any reason and for further information.

Thank you for your consideration!

Very truly yours,

Dr. Ben L. Guido, Principal
Norwood Elementary School

