INTRODUCTION

For National Family Literacy Month, the November issue of Oregon Parenting Together focuses on learning as a family and helpful tips for reading with children.

This series of newsletters is inspired and created just for parents. If you have suggestions, comments or ideas for future newsletters please share on our Facebook (Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative) or Twitter page (@OPECParentingEd).

WHAT IS FAMILY LITERACY?

Family literacy is a term that describes when parents and children learn together. Family literacy stems from the idea that parents are their children’s first teachers, that learning occurs outside of the traditional classroom, and that learning is a life long process. When parents engage in learning activities with their children, not only do children increase their knowledge, but they also gain appreciation for learning. Literacy refers to more than reading and writing it’s also an ability and skill set in an area. For example, computer literacy refers to being knowledgeable in how to use a computer. To celebrate National Family Literacy Month, take some time as a family to gain literacy in a new area! You can go to a planetarium and gain literacy in outer space, talk about saving money and open a bank account to gain financial literacy, or enjoy reading together about a new subject. There are many opportunities to take advantage of as a family so go out and have some fun learning something new together!

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TALKING AFTER READING
Reading with your children is a great way to spend quality time together and help your children build their literacy skills. Reading includes recognizing letters and words, being able to tell a story from pictures, and understanding what is being read. Studies show that talking about a story after reading helps children understand what is being read. By asking your children questions about the story, you can help them reflect and think about what happened. Also, talking about how characters might have felt during the story is a great way to help your children practice empathy. Don’t let story time end when the book is finished - talk with your children afterwards to help them understand and empathize! Check out the box on the right for some more reading tips!

FUN WITH YOUR KIDS
Act Out Your Favorite Book
Does your child have a favorite book that you read over and over again? Next time, try acting it out! Decide who will be each character and use different voices and props to tell the story. Acting out a story can help your children with comprehension of the book, and also provide a fun time for both of you to bond.

REFERENCES
- Reading Rockets http://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-tips-parents-preschoolers

Find your local parenting resources at:
http://orparenting.org/