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Editorial Comment

PARENTS, THE KEY TO READING IMPROVEMENT

Parents can do more to facilitate the reading growth of their children than anyone else. Research shows that children who read and enjoy reading generally come from homes where parents have established a climate conducive to learning. These parents read to their children, play with them, and visit school with them. They take their children on trips and on excursions to visit places of interest and historical significance. They are sensitive to their children's feelings and emotions. They provide a democratic home background which fosters independence and freedom for self-expression. They emphasize the importance of communication and the development of language skills. They provide many books for their children and encourage recreational reading and interest in stories and poems. In essence, parents of good readers produce a favorable environment for learning, develop responsibility, foster emotional stability, and provide their children with rich experiences and basic language skills.

There *is* convincing evidence that parent behavior influences a child's progress in reading. It is imperative, therefore, that school administrators and teachers seek ways to help all parents develop a home environment which will stimulate a desire for reading. Parents hold the key to their children's motivations to learn. As educators, let's show them how to use that key.

Dorothy J. McGinnis
Editor