



Parent Letter – Reading and Spelling with EBLI

We have recently begun implementing the EBLI (Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction) system of strategies into our reading and spelling instruction. EBLI differs from many of the programs we have used in the past. With EBLI we teach students to go by the sounds in words when reading and spelling rather than letter names. We teach patterns of the English language rather than rules. We teach students to sound out words when reading rather than memorizing them. The point of these strategies is to gradually release students toward independence and accuracy when reading and spelling.

We are working hard to teach students these effective and efficient strategies for reading and spelling. The approach to spelling instruction may appear different than in the years past. Teaching children to spell by encouraging the memorization of letter names is largely ineffective. While some students may learn from that method, a much larger percentage does not.

Too often, children work hard to memorize a series of letter names for a test, but can't spell the same word a week later. Instead, we will be teaching students to analyze words based on the sequence of sounds contained within the word. (For example, the sounds in "fish" would be spelled /f/ /i/ /sh/ and the sounds in "journal" would be spelled /j/ /our/ /n/ /al/.) We also encourage students to study by sound at home. We understand that this is something new for many parents.

The same is true of reading. When students actually read the sounds in words rather than memorizing a whole word as a "picture," they are much more successful at reading accurately and fluently. In order to support this, you can say "tell me the sounds in this word" when they come across a word they aren't sure of when reading at home.

We strongly encourage you to visit the EBLI website, watch the three videos on the homepage, and read about the system to help answer questions you may have: www.ebli.com. We are also happy to answer any questions you may have about EBLI, and invite you to watch EBLI instruction in action in our schools. Please let your student's teacher know if you are interested.

In order to further support your child with the EBLI strategies, you can purchase the EBLI Apps if you have an iPad (version 2 or later). Find them on the App store by searching "EBLI Reading Adventures."

"The EBLI system provides students and teachers with consistent strategies instead of inconsistent rules."

- Nora Chahbazi, EBLI founder

