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J.M.J.A.

Dear Parents

September 20, 2023

Would you like to know one of the most simple and effective strategies for increasing your children's attentiveness, memory, speaking, and writing skills? The teachers and I reviewed and practiced it this past Monday. It is called narration.

Narration means having the children tell back what they remember after listening to or reading a section of material. It is often used in literature or history classes, but can easily be used in religion, science, music, and math as well. Parents might want to try it when giving children directions. Narration helps adults know right away if the children have understood and it challenges the children to think!

Below are two examples of narration. As you can see, narration can be used with preschool children right up through adulthood.

Example 1

Teacher/Parent: ***"Rain rain go away.
Come again another day.
Little Johnny wants to play"***

Teacher/Parent: "Can you tell me what is happening in this rhyme?"

Child: "Johnny wants to play outside, but he can't because it is raining. He tells the rain to leave and come back another time."

Teacher/Parent: "Very good! You understood the poem well. How do you think Johnny might feel if the rain did come back on another day?"

Example 2

Teacher/Parent ***" . . . there is no truth more thoroughly established, than that there exists in the economy and course of nature, an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness, between duty and advantage, . . . "***

Teacher/Parent: "Can you tell me what George Washington is saying?"

Child: "George Washington believes it undeniable that happiness is permanently linked with good actions and prosperity with doing one's duty."

Teacher/Parent: "You expressed his thoughts very well! Do you agree with President Washington?"

If you would like to try narration at home, here is some advice taken from Charlotte Mason's work. Narration is so easy to do (on the teachers' or parents' part) and yet so good for the children. Their brains get a real workout when trying to narrate!

1. Read a portion and ask your child to tell you all he can recall about what was just read.
2. Read the passage or episode only once to reinforce the habit of attention.
3. Don't interrupt your child when he/she is trying to narrate. At first it may be difficult, but children get better with practice.
4. Discourage your child from simply repeating the words you just read.
5. Encourage your child to narrate in his own words, inserting his opinion and any mental connections he might have made.

Narration can take many forms. It is usually best to begin by having the children tell back through speech. After they grow comfortable with the skill, they can try narrating through writing, drawing, or even singing and acting. I have asked the teachers to do this frequently in their classrooms. I think you would have fun trying it with your children as well.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

Picture Retakes: Picture retakes are scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, September 21. Children having their picture taken for the first time, or retaken, may wear dress clothing to school and change back into uniforms after their picture is taken. Pre-K children do not need to change clothing.

Open House: All are welcome to come and see the beautiful renovation of St. James School hallways this Sunday, September 24 from 10:00 – 11:30 and from 12:30 – 1:00 pm. A special presentation will be given to the main benefactors at 10:30 am in the Parish Hall. We have new tiling on the floors, freshly painted walls, beautiful plants, live fish, and marvelous paintings which express the purpose of our school! Please see the enclosed flyer for more information.

CK Sisters Outdoor Fall Workday

Sat., September 30, 1:30-4:30 p.m. We will be planting trees, mulching, cleaning up our vegetable garden and cutting trees. Helpful items to bring include shovels, work gloves, wheelbarrows, pickups and chainsaws. Children are also welcome – and can use this for service hours! Mark your calendars now and contact Sister Mary Angela at sr.mary-angela@cdolinc.net if you would like to come and help. Please also print and complete a liability [form](#) (one per adult; children added to adult form.) Villa Regina Motherhouse, 4100 SW 56th St., about 2 miles west and south of Pioneers Park. (Walk-ins also welcome.)

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Please sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences which will be held on Thursday, October 5 from 9:00 -12:00, 1:00 – 5:00, and 6:00 – 8:00. The flyer coming home has directions. If you have any trouble, contact Ms. Tyma in the school office.

Coming Home Today: Open House flyer, Parent-Teacher Conferences sign up flyer, Crete Chamber papers, 5th grade Theology of the Body letter, Lunch Balance letters.