**The Family Reading Partnership *Read to Me!* calendar connects home to school!**

Dear Teachers,

You can make an immediate home-school connection by giving each child a calendar as a gift to take home and hanging one prominently in your classroom.

Make sure to use your classroom calendar daily and remind students to use their calendar at home, too. Send periodic notes home to families with activity suggestions to keep them engaged throughout the year. Here are some activities to try at school and share with families:

**Visit the School Library**

* Encourage students to check out books by an author or illustrator in the calendar and read it at home. Keep some books mentioned in the calendar in your classroom for students to look through and read.

**Keep Track of Important Dates**

* Write in the birthdays of all the children (and teachers) in the class and ask families to do the same at home for each family member and close relatives.
* Make a note on the important days for your class to remember such as vacations and school events and suggest to families that they can use the calendar to remember upcoming plans, too.

**Write or Tell Stories**

* Help children make up a story about the illustration for the month. What is happening in the picture? What happens next? What names do children want to make up as the characters’ names? Once you make up a story at school, ask children to use the same or different calendar illustration to make up a story to tell at home.

**Learn About Natural Occurrences**

* Pick a week to keep track of the weather every day. Mark your observations on the classroom calendar by making little drawings or writing the words: clouds, sun, snow, wind, or rain. Talk about different types of weather. Ask children about the changes that he or she can feel and see during different types of weather. Suggest to the children that they record the weather on their home calendar.
* Notice that each month shows the phases of the moon. Ask children to check the night sky at home to see if the moon is full on the day it is marked on the calendar each month.

**Explore Holidays**

* You can look up a holiday in a book from the library or on the web and learn more about it and about other cultures. Make a food or craft for that holiday and have the children bring it home to share the directions for a recipe or craft project.

**Practice Counting**

* In younger grades, use the calendar to learn numbers by looking at the dates of the month and saying them out loud. Can they count other items? How many books are on the classroom shelf? How many cars are parked on the street? How many family members have brown eyes, blue eyes, or green eyes?

Activities provided by Family Reading Partnership, [www.familyreading.org](http://www.familyreading.org), 607-277-8602.