Parent Handout: Tips for Completing the “Reading Promise”

Sample reading promises:

I, _________________________________, promise to read:

0-2 years old:

- To my child, __________________, every night for as long as he/she is interested before bed. I will point to the pictures, name them, and explain what is happening in the story. I will do this in my native language whenever possible.
- To my child, __________________, every night. I will let my baby touch, grasp, and taste books. I will encourage my baby to turn the pages as we look at a book.
- To my child, __________________, one book each day. It will be a book that he/she selects. I will make reading fun for both of us, bringing the characters to life with funny voices or sound effects.
- To my child, __________________, whatever books he/she brings me each day. I will stop what I am doing and focus solely on my child and our time together.
- To my child, __________________, each night. I will encourage other members of the family to read with us.
- To my child, __________________, every day his/her Imagination Library Book for the month, completing the before, during, and after activities included.

3-5 years old:

- To my child, __________________, every night for 15 minutes before bed. I will read and/or point out pictures in my native language whenever possible.
- To my child, __________________, every night. I will explain some of the new words in the story. I will ask open-ended questions about the story, and ask my child to predict what will happen next.
- To my child, __________________, one book each day. It will be a book that he/she selects. I will make reading fun for both of us, by acting out the story with my child, and using a funny voice and sound effects to make the story come alive.
- To my child, __________________, whatever books he/she brings me each day. I will stop what I am doing and focus solely on my child and our time together.
- To my child, __________________, each night. I will encourage other members of the family to read with us.
- To my child, __________________, every day his/her Imagination Library Book for the month, completing the before, during, and after activities included.

Be sure to sign your reading promise in front of your child as a witness. If possible, have your toddler or preschool aged child “sign” the promise as well.

Make the promise public – post it on the refrigerator where everyone can see it.

Choose a realistic amount of time for the length of your promise, but the promise must be made for at least 30 days. This is the amount of time it takes to establish a new habit.