

Spring, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Due to the extended school closure, I am suggesting some resources/activities for you to utilize during your time at home. These activities will allow your child the opportunity to practice and reinforce reading skills he/she has learned at school.

Your child would normally have Title I Reading for 20-30 minutes per day. You could use that as a guide to gauge how much time to spend on these reading activities each day. If your child is having trouble completing any of these activities, please move on to a different one. If there is anything specific you'd like me to know about your child's work during this time, you may write me a note, and I will address it when school resumes.

In addition, please feel free to email me (hpeter@asd.k12.pa.us) with any questions, comments, or concerns that arise during your reading time at home. I'll be checking my email periodically.

As always, thanks for all that you do.

Miss Peterson

Title I Reading

Activity #1: Lexia Core5 Reading

This is an app/website that your child has used many times in Title I class. This app/website will give your child reading tasks based on his/her reading ability and skill level. It continuously monitors whether he/she has mastered a skill; therefore, it is always on the appropriate reading level. It's presented to the kids in a game-like format, so they really enjoy it!

Lexia has both an app (accessible on iPad 4+, iPad Mini 3+, iPad Air+, and iPad Pro) and a website where you can access the game. The website is www.lexiacore5.com and the app is titled *Lexia Core5*. On either platform, you'll need three things: 1.) my email address (hpeter@asd.k12.pa.us), 2.) your child's username (it is his/her first name and last initial – for example: tommyw, maryp, williamr, etc.), and 3.) your child's password (**every** student's password is the word "read").

From login, your child should be taken to a level that is already established for him/her. He/she can play any of the sections at the top of the level. As those sections/skills are mastered and completed, your child will move to higher levels. It is **very** important that your child completes the levels independently. All of the work that is done on Lexia is reported to me, so that I can see in which areas your child may be struggling, and can provide extra support/help as needed.

Activity #2: Lexia Skill Builders

These go hand-in-hand with the lessons that your child sees on the Lexia Core5 Reading app. The only difference is the format of the lessons. These are designed to be paper and pencil, so feel free to print them off and use as you feel necessary. Or, you can just use them on the computer, without cutting, pasting, coloring, etc. These will be posted as individual documents on the Divine Redeemer webpage. Look for your child's grade level in the link title (i.e. Lexia Skill Builders – Kindergarten).

Activity # 3: Interactive/Shared Reading

This is an activity that you may already do in your daily routine, and one of the most important activities of all to grow and strengthen your child's reading skills – reading stories together! 20 minutes of reading a day is what is recommended. It makes a **huge** difference. You can incorporate story time at any time of the day.

If you choose to read together with your child, I challenge you to a couple of things: 1.) let him/her do all/some of the reading, and 2.) assess his/her understanding of the story by asking comprehension questions (Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?) These two things will force your child to think about what he/she is reading, which is important for reading growth.

Also, feel free to reread stories more than one or two times. There's value in reading a story more than once! It is especially good for developing fluency skills, which is a huge part of reading.

Activity #4: Epic Books

This is an optional resource to use. Please don't feel like you have to use it. The reason I am recommending it is because it is an app that we use a lot in Title I. I like to describe Epic Books as "Netflix for Books." It is full of all sorts of books about all sorts of topics at all sorts of levels. The kids **love** this resource.

It gives students many options in what they read, including "Read-to-Me" books and audiobooks, as well as award-winners and new releases. It is a good option if you feel that you don't have enough books at home to read with your child, or just want him/her to read independently.

Epic Books typically costs \$7.99 per month; however, Epic offers a **30-day free trial**, if you'd like to give it a shot at home over the course of the extended school closure.