Research Spotlight

Attention & Storybook Reading

Dr. Byungho Lee, a visiting scholar from Duksung Women’s University, will begin conducting research at the Children’s School during the second semester. His first study will examine children’s visual attention level during a story reading activity. He plans to record children’s eye movements as they watch two story reading videos, one with a teacher reading a traditional paper-based “big book” and one with a teacher reading a screen-based eBook, to compare the direction and duration of their focus. In addition, he will ask comprehension questions to compare their understanding of the stories’ content after the reading. The goal of the research is to determine the ways in which digital media supports and/or detracts from teachers’ efforts to engage children’s attention in storybook reading sessions. The prevalence of digital media in children’s lives is growing so understanding the impact is key.

Research in Practice

This month, there are two opportunities for parents to learn about research-based practices to support young children’s learning and development.

Animals: The Wonders of the Wild for Families

**Educator / Parent Discussion**
Friday, February 2, 2018
9:30 – 11:00 AM, Cohon University Center, Peter - Wright Room (2nd Floor)
Preschool 4’s and Kindergarten Children will be in school. Child Care will be provided for children 3 and under in the Red Room.

As we prepare for our Whole School Unit on ANIMALS IN THE WILD, let’s consider how we can foster children’s development of observation skills and natural empathy with animals so that they may begin to develop a lifelong friendship with nature. We will explore Dr. Deborah Kelemen’s research on the ways that children’s naturally developing intuitions about animals actually make some scientific concepts, such as adaptation by natural selection, challenging to learn, and review a book her research team has written to introduce scientifically accurate information at a young age.

**Q&A with Educators**
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 8:30am in Danforth Lounge
Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 12:30pm at the Children’s School
Infants and toddlers attend with their parents.

Perhaps you want to know what recent research says about building character, choosing media, teaching reading, responding to children’s questions about sensitive topics, etc. Anything is fair game, but we do suggest that you submit your questions in advance so we can prepare! Of course, your questions are always welcome in person or via email to Dr. Carver at sc0e@andrew.cmu.edu.