



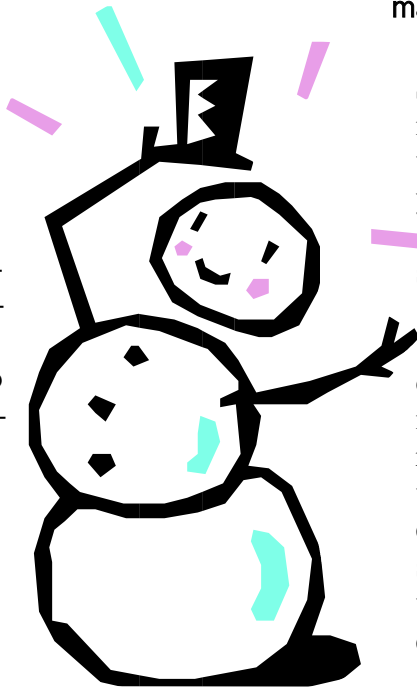
“ Why Can’t I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?”

Although going outside and playing in the snow is a wonderful past time sought after by most kids and even many adults, time for reading is still very important. While time playing outside is great for the body, the mind can be neglected. This is easy to do during this busy time of the year with vacations, holiday parties, and the inviting white stuff outside.

Just remember how important it is for all readers, especially those at the beginning stages, to practice by reading during winter break.

Since many of these skills are new and/or developing for the beginning readers,

continued practice is key for their growth and success. Think back to when they were learning to walk and talk... these skills did not come without mishaps, maybe even some bumps and bruises. Remember that first



T-ball game when the kids only seemed to hit the T... Everyone needs to practice new skills in order to do them well.

This is true of reading, too!

Let’s Figure it Out Mathematically (see chart, too)

Student A practices reading the equivalent of ten whole school days a year. Student B gets the equivalent of only two school days of reading practice. By the end of the sixth grade if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits, Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12

school days.

One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance.

How do you think Student B will feel about him/herself as a student?

Some questions to ponder:

- Which student would you expect to be a better reader?
- Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
- Which student would you expect to write better?
- Which student would you expect to be more successful in school? And in life?

This article provides a lot of interesting facts that seem to be pretty clear cut once you break it all down and then look at the bigger picture.

Though the reading requires more of your time now to monitor and be sure that your child is actually practicing reading and not just looking at the pictures, it will pay off down the road when you are not having to help write term papers and do research for your child!

Let’s Figure it Out Mathematically!

Source: U.S. Dept. of education, America Reads Challenge. (1999) “Start Early, finish Strong: How to Help Every Child Become a Reader.” Washington, D.C.

Student A reads 20 minutes five nights a week of every week			
Student B reads only 4 minutes a night ...or not at all			
Steps / Students	Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week	Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks in each month	Multiply minutes a month x 9 months in the school year
Student A	$20 \times 5 = 100$ minutes per week	$100 \times 4 = 400$ minutes a month	$400 \times 9 = 3600$ minutes in a school year
Student B	$4 \times 5 = 20$ minutes per week	$20 \times 4 = 80$ minutes a month	$80 \times 9 = 720$ minutes in a school year