

READING AT HOME

By Rick Millsap

President, Nevada State Education Association

Reading begins at home. Parents can encourage their children's natural curiosity about books and their desire to learn to

read. They can help their children develop readiness to read and can support what is being taught at school. In order to begin reading, children must develop the necessary language skills. They need a degree of inde-

pendence and maturity. And they must be motivated to learn to read. Children develop this reading readiness at different rates just as they learn to talk and walk at different ages.

Reading is first and foremost a form of communication. When learning to talk, children develop the concept that words communicate thoughts, emotions, and needs. When learning to read, they develop the concept that words can be communicated visually as well as orally. In order that the printed words will have meaning for them, children must have a solid foundation in language. Mastering spoken language is a key step toward mastering written language. The more experiences children have, the more they are talked and listened to, the more stimulation they receive — the more they will be ready to read. Parents can help their children develop the needed foundation in language by talking with them and listening to them.

* Talk with your child while doing things together, folding laundry, driving in the car, cooking.

* Ask your child to sequence

UNCF DONATION — (Continued from Page 8) collectibles. The company employs approximately 30,000 people worldwide.

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the events of the day at dinner or at bedtime.

* Discuss what you've seen on TV or read together. Ask questions: Who was your favorite character? Why? What would you have done? What do you think will happen next?

* Repeat favorite nursery rhymes and stories. If your child has memorized them, listen while the child tells them to you.

* Encourage questions and try to answer them.

Readiness to read requires a certain amount of independence and maturity because it implies the ability to explore on one's own. Children need help and guidance to achieve independence. Successful reading requires that children determine words by themselves rather than rely on an adult. Readiness to read also requires a willingness on the child's part to take risks, since mistakes are an unavoidable part of the learning process. The child must be willing to make a mistake and continue. Thus, learning to read is hard work and children need all the emotional support they can get.

* Correct sparingly. Be careful not to produce anxiety that will threaten the child's willingness to take risks.

* Let your children know it's all right to move at their own pace, that they won't be compared to each other.

* Give your children responsibilities at home. This will help prepare them to take responsi-

bility for their reading.

Learning to read is much like learning any other skill. It requires a combination of instruction, experimentation, and practice. But the first step must be motivation. The child must want to learn to read. Parents can encourage their children to read by demonstrating that they think reading is important. Parents can help their children discover the benefits of reading: new ideas, relaxation, adventure, fun.

* Buy as many children's books as you can afford.

* Give books as gifts.

* Visit the library regularly.

* Allow your children to choose their own books. Make sure they see you reading newspapers, magazines, and books.

* Set up a special place for reading.

* Encourage older children to read to younger children.

* Surround your child with words; point out street signs; label objects in the house such as table, desk and stove.

* Play word games like Scrabble, Anagrams, and Ad Lib.

* Watch educational TV programs together. Some of these programs stress reading development.

* Ask your child, especially at bedtime. Re-read favorite stories.

* Ask your child to read to you.

* Stress the things your children do well in reading rather than any mistakes they make.

Remember: Success breeds success.

Parents often find it helpful to talk with their child's teacher to find out the approach of combination of approaches the teacher uses. In this way, they can support what is taught at school.

FESTIVAL OF CANDLES CELEBRATION AT DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Celebrate the December holidays including Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and Christmas! Enjoy stories, songs and a candlelighting ceremony to honor each holiday. Open to family members of all ages. Children under five must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Pre-registration is required, call your local library to sign up.

Monday, December 13
Whitney Library (East Las Vegas Library), 7 p.m.
4060 S. Nellis Blvd.
435-2266.

Tuesday, December 14
Las Vegas Library, 7 p.m.
833 Las Vegas Blvd. N.
382-2003

Wednesday, December 15
W. Charleston Library, 6:30 p.m.
6301 W. Charleston Blvd.
878-2606.

Saturday, December 18
West Las Vegas Library, 2 p.m.
951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
647-2118.

NEW DANCE PROGRAM TO BE OFFERED AT THE CCSN

Some very talented professional dancers and choreographers from the Las Vegas area have been recruited as instructors for a new dance program offered by The Community College of Southern Nevada Fine Arts Department.

The CCSN's new dance program will offer classes varying from beginning jazz to ballroom to ballet. The courses, available at all skill levels, will be transferable to four-year institutions in Nevada and elsewhere.

The new dance facility and state of the art theater will add to the enjoyment of rehearsals and performances, according to CCSN Fine Arts Department Chair, Dr. Tom Ferguson.

Donna Medrano, winner of numerous ball room championship titles, will be the new CCSN ballroom dance instructor. Medrano has performed professionally with such noted artists as Debbie Reynolds and Juliet Prowse.

Former member of the June Taylor Dancers, Jacque Jaeger will instruct tap dance for the college. Jaeger choreographed and co-directed Closer Than Ever, which was performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

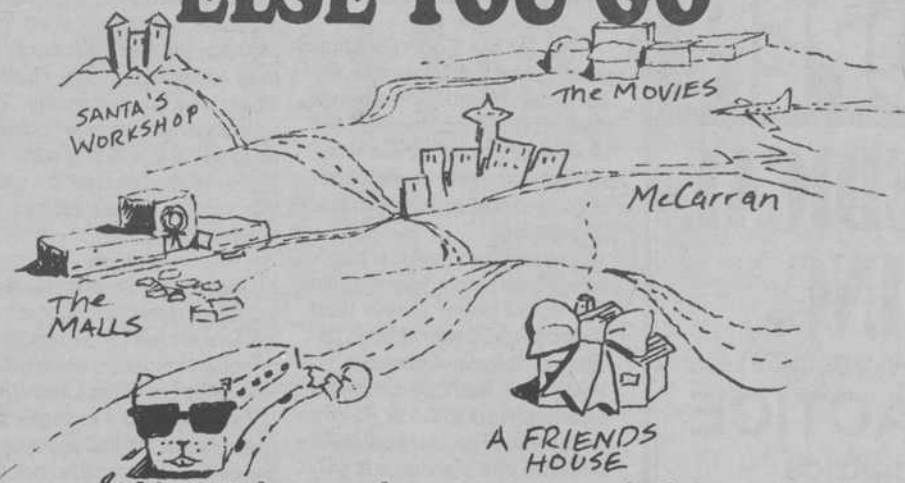
Teaching Jazz for The CCSN will be Donna Washington, who has choreographed shows in Japan and Europe as well as having danced professionally at some of the major Las Vegas hotels.

Also teaching Jazz, will be Las Vegas native, Pamela Denise Noble, who studied Musical Theater Dance at United States International University and has been a member of the teaching staff at Simba Talent Development Center in Las Vegas.

Garold Gardner, who has previously directed and choreographed CCSN productions, will instruct ballet at the college. Gardner is a principal ballet teacher for Dance Educators and has danced in several Broadway musicals.

Early registration for all classes being offered for the spring semester at The Community College of Southern Nevada begins on December 15, 1993. For more information about the dance program, contact Dr. Tom Ferguson at 643-6060, ext. 427.

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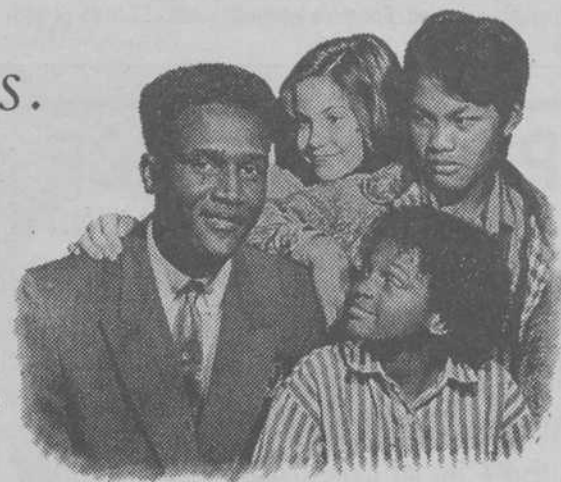
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