

PARENT/ GUARDIAN INFORMATION STATEMENT

You are invited to participate in a study entitled, *Creating a Community of Readers*, a research study being conducted within Saanich School District 63 by a team of independent researchers.

The purpose of this study

It is widely accepted today that parents and caregivers should read regularly with their children in order to help them be successful in school. However, parents are given little guidance about what that actually means: parents often query how long they should read for, what role do they play when their child starts reading themselves, and how do they continue to build an interest in reading as their child moves through school and reading material becomes more challenging. This research study invites parents to take part in a series of three workshops to address these and other questions surrounding raising children who want to read.

The content of the workshops is based upon research, and the aim is to communicate this knowledge to families to help them support their child in learning to read. This is not an accelerated reading program whereby children will be expected to learn to read at a faster rate than is normal. Instead, parents will, among other things, receive guidance as to how to effectively use praise during reading, how to support a child if they lose interest or become discouraged and how to provide support so that their child is more likely to be an enthusiastic reader throughout school. This is the third year this program has been offered in SD63 and the content is designed to ensure that the child's home and school environment support each other.

Who is carrying out the study?

This study is led by Professor Mark Colgate, of the Gustavson School of Business, University of Victoria, you may contact him if you have further questions (250 853 3873 or colgate@uvic.ca).

What does the study involve?

If you agree to take part in this study you will be asked to attend three workshops at Sidney Elementary. As well as attend the workshops, you will be asked to complete a short questionnaire. The aim of the questionnaire is to understand families' home reading beliefs and behaviours, and it will be provided to you online or in paper format at three intervals, 1) before the workshop series commences, 2) towards the end of this school year, and finally, 3) towards the end of the 2019/2020 school year. The questionnaire, which will be anonymous, will ask you to provide some general background information (basic demographic information such as your age, educational level etc.), as well as ask you about your own reading habits and about how you spend time reading with your child at home. The intention is to understand these factors over the course of a longer term basis, and understand the usefulness of the workshops to you.

The questionnaires will take approximately 5 minutes to complete and, combined with the time for the workshops, your total time commitment over two years for participating is expected to be less than 5 hours.

Will my family benefit as a result of the study?

The aim of the program is to help you to support your child in learning to read and encourage your child's desire to read; there are no known or anticipated risks to you or your child by

participating in this research. Quite simply, the study would like to bridge the gap between the research on children learning to read, and what that means for parents in the home, so that you can best help your child. In particular, this program will focus on what educators know impacts children's motivation to read. A child's motivation is a key component of reading and their desire to read for pleasure is very important for their reading development. In addition, the researchers will provide the results to Saanich School District 63 so that they can understand and use the results through professional development opportunities for teachers.

Voluntary participation

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect you, your child, or your child's future relations with their teacher or the school. If you do decide to participate, you may withdraw at any time throughout the study without any consequences, or any explanation. If you do withdraw from the study any personal data pertaining to you will not be used.

Anonymity

The questionnaires you will be asked to complete will be anonymous. Due to this fact, we cannot remove information supplied through completed questionnaires, should you chose to withdraw. While you will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss your home reading experiences with the group, you are under no obligation to provide any personal details during the workshops. In order for the researchers to understand further any possible challenges that parents face with home reading, some of the information shared during the workshops maybe written up in summary form, however, pseudonyms will be used and there will be no identifying information of families in any future documentation.

Confidentiality and dissemination of Results

All aspects of this regarding yourself or your child, including results, will be strictly private and only the researchers will have access to this information. A report on the success and learning from the workshops will be shared with the School Board Office and may be submitted for publication, but individual participants will not be identifiable in reports.

Disposal of Data

Data from this study will be stored in a secure office at the Gustavson School of Business. Any paper data collected will be disposed of by shredding and any electronic data erased after five years.

What if I require further information?

Individuals that may be contacted regarding this study include Mark Colgate (details above) or Orla Colgate (250 885 2062 or orlacolgate@shaw.ca), who will be conducting the workshops. In addition, you may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you might have, by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca).

Thank you for taking the time to read this information about this study.