

Children Must be Exposed to Language and Objects - Dr. Tortello

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Dr. Rebecca Tortello, Special Advisor on Early Childhood Education and Parenting in the Ministry of Education looks on as a student points to a picture in the book entitled, 'Big and Strong', which Dr. Tortello read to students of St. Aloysius Primary School in Kingston on May 6, Read Across Jamaica Day.

Special Advisor on Early Childhood Education and Parenting in the Ministry of Education, Dr. Rebecca Tortello, has stressed that it is important for children to be exposed to language and objects, as part of their every day learning.

"It is so important to expose children to language at an early age and to every day objects in the home, so as to help them to develop their own natural curiosity about the things and the world around them. Reading is a way that opens the door to them to learn everything in the future," Dr. Tortello said in an interview with JIS News.

As part of 'Read Across Jamaica Day' activities, yesterday (May 6), Dr. Tortello read a book entitled, 'Big and Strong', to students at the St. Aloysius Primary School in downtown Kingston.

The Special Advisor said that in order for children to be able to communicate effectively, they have to be literate and numerate, especially in today's knowledge based society.



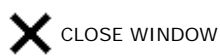
Students from the St. Aloysius Primary School in Kingston pay keen attention to what Special Advisor on Early Childhood Education and Parenting in the Ministry of Education, Dr. Rebecca Tortello is imparting to them. Dr. Tortello was reading a book entitled, 'Big and Strong' on 'Read Across Jamaica Day', at the school on May 6.

In addition, Dr. Tortello explained that parents are important role models in the lives of children and hence, should play a pivotal role in encouraging them to read.

"If children see parents going to the library, and we have parish libraries all over the island with books, if children see their parents reading, whether it's a newspaper or a book, they will want to read too," she said.

"That is not to say if you cannot read as parent, you still can help your child to read by encouraging your child and showing them objects because you can have conversations about books that don't even have words. So you can use the pictures and tell your own story without using the words," Dr. Tortello added.

Read Across Jamaica Day was celebrated as part of Education Week 2008, and was aimed at encouraging children to make reading a regular part of their lives. It is expected to foster interest in reading by bringing together entire communities to participate in the promotion of literacy.



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