

ECAE/KITAB

VC's talk at the ADIBF on March 03, 2010

Distinguished guests, ECAE colleagues and Friends of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair,

Selimalikum and good morning to one and all.

I am very happy that the **Emirates College for Advanced Education Abu Dhabi** was invited to participate with Kitab and its partners in ensuring the success of what will be a wonderful and exciting Abu Dhabi International book Fair.

KITAB and the college make for a perfect alliance for an international book fair in Abu Dhabi. As KITAB promotes the joy of reading the college teaches teachers to teach children to read, to write and to use both English and Arabic for work and play.

As many of you know the Emirates College for Advanced Education is the first and the only stand alone institute of education for teachers and principals in Abu Dhabi and the UAE.

It is the product of an exciting vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan to ensure that the next generation of emirate nationals is well served by an educational system of international standards.

The college offers a 4 year initial teacher training BEd program for cycle 1 teachers and a one year PGDE for degree holders to teach in cycle 2 and cycle 3 schools.

The college is also a teacher training partner with public schools all over Abu Dhabi and works diligently to enhance the professional development of practicing teachers and principals.

In the fullness of time, the college will also be offering master's and doctoral work as it undertakes its research mission to create new knowledge and deeper understandings of teaching and learning in Abu Dhabi and the UAE.

One of the research imperatives for the Emirate is the study of culture and pedagogy and one of the most important aspects of the study of culture and pedagogy is language education. That is, both the English and Arabic language. In fact, the study of bilingual education will help to inform our practice of the teaching of reading and writing in the curriculum.

We need to know more about the psychology of language, about comprehension, about reading habits, effective teaching and learning and teaching reading to special needs students in the UAE.

Today a number of our colleagues at the college (who deserve a special thank you) have been called upon to present workshops on a variety of interesting topics such as 'digital storytelling', 'learning spaces', 'ways with words' and 'Arabic language teaching through games'. There are too many interesting sessions to mention here but the variety of topics is rich and as Walt Disney nearly said, ["There is more treasure in workshops on books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."](#)

So please, where you can do your best to attend these sessions.

And because I cannot over state the role of the family in the development of a child's reading and writing I want to leave you with some reading tips for teaching your child to read:

1. Talk to your toddler in English and Arabic as you point to objects and describe them as you play and do daily activities together.
2. Read to your baby every day. Hearing words over and over helps her become familiar with them.
3. Use sounds, songs, gestures and words that rhyme to help your baby learn about language.
4. Spend as much time listening to your child as you do talking to him.
5. Take children's books and writing materials with you whenever you leave home.
6. Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write and draw.

7. Set a good example for your child by reading books, newspapers and magazines.
8. Turn off the television and spend more time cuddling and reading books with your child. The time and attention you give your child has many benefits beyond helping him be ready for success in school.
9. Seek out age-appropriate books to use at home with your child
10. Find creative ways to use books with your child and always look for ways to make reading and writing fun.

And remember...families that read and play together..... stay together

On behalf of the college I want to thank you all for being here today.

To Kitab and its partners for inviting the ECAE team to be a part of their quest to capture the imagination of the young reader. **Have a wonderful day at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair!**