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Classroom Guidance News,

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Stacey Lawson, Counselor

Parents,

I am the new school counselor here at Port Wentworth Elementary School. I have been a professional school counselor for over 10 years in Alabama and Tennessee. I look forward to meeting you this year! Please call or stop by my office if there is anything that I can do for you. I will visit your child's class twice a month to discuss a variety of topics. These topics include study skills, decision making, friendship skills, anger management, conflict resolution, self esteem, and careers. Teachers may also request lessons based on the needs of their class. I will send home a newsletter each time a new topic is covered. Please discuss and reinforce these skills at home. At Port Wentworth our motto is "To be successful, you must act successful." Parental involvement is crucial to a child success in school.

STUDY SKILLS

We will be covering study skills during my first month in classroom guidance. Students will participate in a variety of lessons, depending on grade level. We will cover listening skills, organization, proofreading, and following directions. My classes are always interactive, with games, trivia, peer interaction, and discussions.

Five ways parents can improve their children's listening skills

1. Be a good model. When your child is telling you something, stop what you're doing. Look at her and give your full attention. Some parents find it easier to sit down so that their child's eyes are at their own eye-level.
2. Have family members take turns telling about their day. Then have each person draw a name and repeat something that happened to the person whose name they drew.
3. Play Simon Says. This will teach your child to listen very carefully and to follow directions exactly.

4. Practice reflective listening. When you say something, ask your child to paraphrase what you said. When your child asks a question, repeat her question and then respond.

5. Stop and ask questions during story time. When you get to an exciting part of the book, ask, "What do you think will happen next?" or "Why do you think he said that?"

