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Sherrimaret.com ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. One of the most important lessons every year in the library is teaching book care rules. When I first started as a librarian I only taught kindergarten and first grade students about this. I assumed that all kids knew how to take care of their books, but I was sadly mistaken. Many of my students did not have books at home and rarely visited the library outside of school. So I quickly learned just how vital it was that I teach these skills to my students.My goal became to teach book care in a way that went beyond just repeating the rules over and over again like a broken record. Over time I came up with some different ideas and activities that work really well.Disclosure: This post may contain affiliate links, meaning I receive a small commission if you decide to make a purchase through one of my links, at no cost to you. Please read my disclosure policy for more information.A Perfectly Messed-Up Story by Patrick McDonnellLittle Louie is happy to be telling his story in his own book, except when he realizes that the book is messed up. There are jelly stains and scribbles and all kinds of messiness. This is a fun and interactive way to teach children book care rules.Simple, rhyming book that reviews different book care rules in a fun and engaging way. This is a nonfiction book with colorful illustrations. It is a simple book that is about exactly what it says - using manners with library books.Jake and his book from the library are placed in one sticky situation after another in this cumulative tale, an original adaptation of the classic There Was an Old Lady.Demco used to seal two books that I use as well. They are no longer listed on their website, but you may be able to find a copy on Amazon.Never Let a Ghost Borrow Your Library Book The Librarian Gingerread Man Mr. Wiggle's Book What Happened to Marion's BookThere are some other books that I will read at the beginning of school. They are not specifically about book care rules but it is very easy to begin a discussion after reading.This is an activity I use every year. I take a tote bag and fill it with different items that are related to book care rules. Then I have a student come up and pull out one item at a time and have students guess what book care rule the item goes with. Below is a list of some of the items I use. Water bottle (never get your books wet, don't put water bottles inside your bookbag) Stuffed dog (keep pets away from your books) Baby bottle, baby doll or baby item (keep younger brothers and sisters away from your books) Crayons, pencil (do not draw, write or color in your books) Scissors (do not cut the pages of your book) Food wrapper or container (do not eat your books while eating) Sometimes I will also have two different boxes (book care do's and book care don'ts). After students identify each item they will decide which box the item goes into. I also use a book care sort. I use a pocket chart or a magnetic whiteboard and have students sort pictures or short sentences into two different columns. This also works really well as a center activity or for students to do after they check out their books. Sometimes I will give one card to each student and have them group themselves into the two categories. I will also pull this activity out midway through the year as a review. Another activity in my Book Care Activities Lesson Pack is a mini book. I love using mini books with my students (even though it can be a pain to get 100 mini books ready for an entire grade level). One advantage of using a mini book is that the students can take them home and show their parents and they will read it together. You can also show students examples of books that have been damaged. We talk about what happened to the book and how to protect our books. You can also show students your "book hospital", supplies that you use to repair books. This last idea is a Google Slides book care sort. It can be done as a whole-group activity on a SmartBoard. Later in the year when students have more experience using Chromebooks they can use it as a review. This activity is part of my new Library Skills for Google Drive - Grades K-2. I also have a free Book Care Rules coloring page and bookmarks available in my store.Something to think about: I also tell the students that accidents happen. Sometimes a puppy will chew a book or your sister will spill her milk on it. When something like this happens, they need to be honest about it. I tell students that we will work something out. I do not want them to be afraid to tell me about the situation. I know many students can not afford to pay for a damaged book. I would rather the student take responsibility for what happened then to lie about it or hide it. What are your thoughts on this? Drop a comment and me know. I always like to hear opinions and ideas from other librarians. If you love books, you're probably frustrated, maybe horrified, to see the way toddlers typically treat books. But there's hope! In honor of NEA's Read Across America Day tomorrow, I want to share some ideas that can help your toddler or preschooler learn to take care of books. My husband and I have always loved books. So it was important for us that our children learn to love and take care of books, too. I kept my now-adult children's favorite books for grandkids. And I've been amazed by the condition of the books. Even though they were looked at and read many, many times in the 1980s and 90s, the books are in almost perfect condition today. I have a post with tips and Montessori presentations for helping children learn to treasure books. In that post, you can read some of the things we did to help our children treasure and take care of books. How to Help Toddlers and Preschoolers Take Care of Books - YouTube Video And today, I have a video with my now-adult daughter, Christina, telling about learning to take care of books. After a Montessori presentation, my 2-year-old granddaughter, Zoey (Christina's niece), demonstrates how to gently look at books. Montessori Presentation on How to Close a Book by Christina Chitwood The Montessori book presentations are wonderful at home with one or more children or with a small group in a classroom setting. You can do the presentations separately as shown in the videos in the other post or combined as Christina did in this video (especially as a review presentation). Demonstrating How to Open a Book at Age 2 Gently Looking at a Book at Age 2 Amazon Affiliate: Wondering what book this is? It's I Spy a Lion by Lucy Micklethwait. The books in this series are a fabulous first introduction to art masterpieces. Lucy Micklethwait has beautiful art books for children. Some of them (such as this one) are available in hardcover for as little as \$.01 plus shipping. What Do I Recommend Regarding Babies and Books? For babies, I recommend lots of snuggling and reading along with board books for babies to look at independently. I use board books until toddlers have the necessary fine-motor coordination to look at regular pages without damaging the book. Of course, I still read some books with regular pages aloud to babies. Some parents don't mind babies chewing on board books, but I don't like even babies to damage books. I would never punish a baby or toddler for damaging a book, but I gently guide them to learn to take care of books. I quietly say: "Books are for reading, not for eating." If the baby continues to chew on the book, I simply trade the book for a toy the baby is allowed to chew on. Here are some of my favorite Montessori-friendly books for babies. And here's my recommendation for the very best Montessori-friendly books for babies and toddlers. Here are my favorite Montessori-friendly books for a 2 year old. I love book baskets for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. I always keep a few books on a bookshelf, too, but book baskets are my main way to focus attention on a few special books. More Book Recommendations I have a category of posts about books for kids. A love of books is one of the greatest gifts you can give your child. And teaching your child to take care of books can be part of that. Learn more about my eBook Montessori at Home or School: How to. Teach Grace and Courtesy! If this is your first time visiting Living Montessori Now, welcome! If you haven't already, please join us on our Living Montessori Now Facebook page where you'll find a Free Printable of the Day and lots of inspiration and ideas for parenting and teaching! And please follow me on Instagram, Pinterest (lots of Montessori-, holiday-, and theme-related boards), and YouTube. While you're here, please check out the Living Montessori Now shop. And don't forget one of the best ways to follow me by signing up for my weekly newsletter. You'll receive some awesome freebies in the process! It is important to encourage library book care at all grade levels, especially elementary. Students need intentional instruction on the do's and don'ts of book care, but they also need constant modeling and reminding. To prepare and excite students for taking care of library books, I like to become the Book Doctor. The Book Doctor is charged with caring for library books. I even like to use a stethoscope to listen to books' "heartbeats" to diagnose each as healthy or sick. Students help examine the books and we discuss what should have been done to keep books healthy. In this lesson, students learn book doctors' responsibilities by reading Penelope Popper: Book Doctor by Toni Buzzeo. In this story Penelope wanted to be a doctor and was always looking for opportunities to practice her doctoring skills. Her friends were tired of having their heartbeats listened to, their blood pressure taken and their reflexes checked. One day she went to visit the school librarian who showed Penelope some books that were "sick" and needed the attention of a book doctor. The librarian taught Penelope how to clean and repair the sick books so that children could read them again. At the end of the story, students learn to be book doctors themselves. I have students begin their book doctor training by practicing one of the rules. Penelope learns from the librarian: never dog-ear a page; always use a bookmark. CLICK HERE to access a free digital download of book care rules coloring pages and bookmarks from Teachers Pay Teachers. I would also recommend an activity pack from Teachers Pay Teachers that includes 20 picture cards for students to sort (things they should do with their library books and things they shouldn't). I have students sort the picture cards under the correct column. If the picture shows something that they should do with the books it goes under the "Yes we do" column. If it is something they should not do it goes under the "No we don't" card. Image Source There are many other great read-alouds I like to use to promote book care. 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