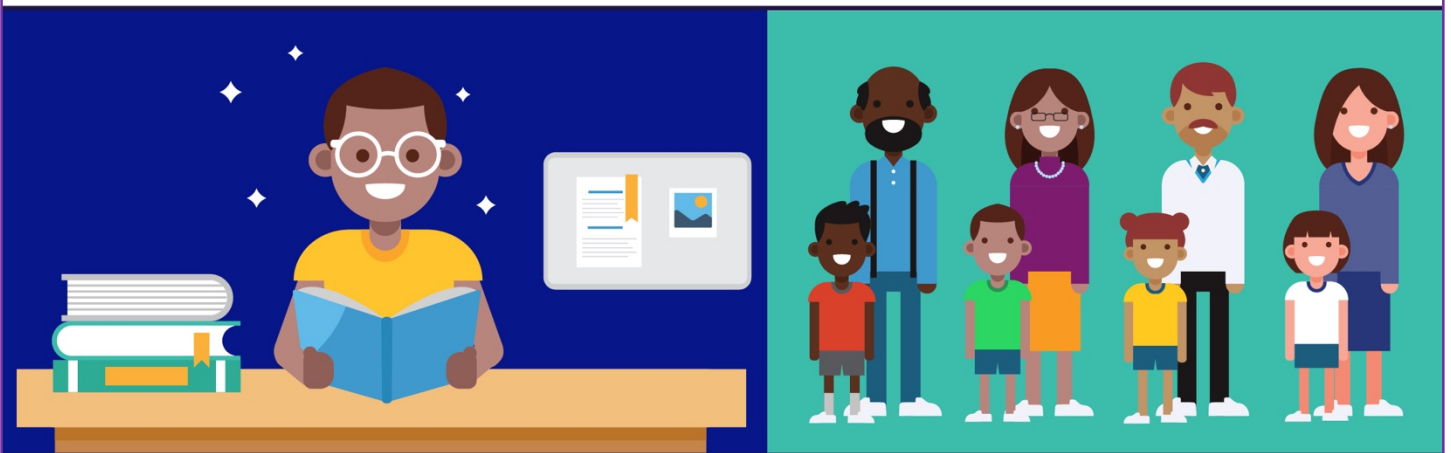




Read-At-Home Plan for Student Success

Kindergarten – 3rd Grade



Adapted with permission from the Mississippi Department of Education

Read-At-Home Plan for

Student Success

Dear Caregivers,

The Nebraska Department of Education recognizes the role of parents, guardians, and other caregivers and family members in making a positive impact on a child's school success. Reading with children outside of school is the best way to help them achieve strong early literacy. Helping ensure a child is reading on grade level by 3rd grade is an important task. By reading with your child 20 minutes per day and making a few simple things a part of your daily routine, you can set your student along the path to proficiency.

This resource was created to assist you in understanding how to support your child's reading development and progress. Using materials found around your home, you will be able to practice the skills necessary to help your child become a fluent reader. This resource also includes information on the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act, which was created to ensure all students are ready for success in school and beyond.

We are happy to provide you with this Read-At-Home Plan. Please visit education.ne.gov/nebraskareads for additional resources!

Sincerely,

Dr. Abby Burke, Reading Specialist
Dr. Marissa Payzant, English Language Arts Specialist
*Nebraska Department of Education
Office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment*

Read-At-Home Plan for Student Success

Important Words Caregivers Should Know

Threshold Level

How a child performs in reading compared to other children their age or what they are expected to know

Reading Deficiency

A specific weakness in one of the five components of reading (phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, or comprehension)

Diagnostic

An additional test that tells why a child is not reading at threshold by looking deeply at a specific area, and what may be done to help in this area

Reading Intervention

Additional, specific small-group or individual instruction to increase or improve childrens' skills in the five components of reading (phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, or comprehension)

Screeners

A test used to identify students who fall at or below threshold; usually given three times a year

What are some questions I should ask a teacher about my child's reading progress?



- Is my child reading on grade level? What does "reading on grade level" look like?
- What test does my child take to find out if they are reading on grade level?
- How far below grade level is my child reading?
- What specific areas of reading is my child struggling with? What activities can I do with my child at home to help?
- What additional supports are being provided to my child? How frequently, and for how much time?
- How frequently will we meet to discuss my child's reading progress?

What is an “Individualized Reading Improvement Plan”?

In 2018, the *Nebraska Reading Improvement Act* was signed into law. Any student in Kindergarten through 3rd grade with an identified reading deficiency would be required to have an Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP). A **reading deficiency** would be determined by the student's performance on a reading **scraper**. Other requirements of the law include:

- Assessment of early literacy skills 3 times during the school year
- Parental notification within 15 days of identification of a reading deficiency
- Individualized supplemental reading intervention
- Family engagement and home literacy support
- Summer reading programs and enrichment

Once a deficiency is identified by a child **not meeting the determined threshold level**, teachers are required to notify parents. A **diagnostic** assessment is given to the child, and based on specific needs, teachers will provide intensive reading instruction and **interventions** for that child. The instruction and interventions done with the child to correct the deficiency will be documented in the IRIP.

As a parent, what is my role in the IRIP process?

1st

• Know that a reading screener is given to your child during the first 30 days of school if they are in Kindergarten, First, Second, or Third Grade. Ask your child's teacher how they did on each test. The school is required to tell you if the results show your child has a reading deficiency.

2nd

• If your child does have a reading deficiency, ask the teacher how you can be involved in the creation of your child's Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP).

3rd

• The Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) will provide ideas for specific activities you can do at home to help your child improve his/her reading skills. Work with your child nightly to support what their teacher is doing at school.

4th

• Depending on the deficiency, your child will be assessed on a regular basis to see if the intervention is helping. Teachers may adjust the interventions to match the needs of the student.

5th

• In addition, plan to attend Parent Teacher conferences throughout the year. Help your child with his/her homework, and check their grades and classwork regularly. Ask to meet with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about your child's reading progress.

You are your child's greatest champion.
Ask about your child's reading progress frequently!

Read-At-Home Plan for Student Success

What is *phonological awareness*?

Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize and work with sounds in spoken language. It is the foundation for learning to read.

Students with strong phonological awareness can:

- rhyme;
- count syllables;
- recognize sounds alone and in words;
- add, remove, and substitute sounds in words;
- break words into their different sounds and blend them back together; and
- isolate sounds.

Phonological Awareness Activities

Rhyming Activities

- Using the most common word families, play a game where you and your child take turns thinking of rhyming words. Whoever comes up with the most for each word family wins!

Example: "What words can you think of that rhyme with -at?"

"Cat!" "Hat!"

"Rat!" "Fat!" "Gnat!"

- Using magazines, newspapers, and store advertisements, have your child look for pictures of objects that rhyme and cut them out. He/She can paste the pictures onto paper to create rhyme collages.
- Play "I Spy" with your child, but instead of naming a color, say, "I spy something that rhymes with _____." Take turns with your child playing the game. Encourage the use of nonsense words as rhyming clues.
- Give your child a list of three words where only two rhyme. Ask them to identify which word does not belong.
- Sing rhyming echo songs, such as "Boom Chicka Boom." Come up with a motion for each rhyme you create and act it out.

The 37 most common word families in English are:

A

ack, ain, ake, ale, all, ame, an, ank, ap, ash, at, ate, aw, ay

E

eat, ell, est

I

ice, ick, ide, ight, ill, in, ine, ing, ink, ip, it

O

ock, oke, op, ore, ot

U

Alliteration Activities

- If your child struggles to hear the alliteration in a phrase or sentence, practice with words beginning with the following sounds: /f/, /h/, /l/, /m/, /n/, /s/, /v/, /z/. These sounds can be drawn out to emphasize their placement at the beginning of each word. Come up with simple phrases where the words all begin with the same sound. Say the phrase and have your child repeat it back, drawing out the beginning sound.
Example: “Sssneaky sssnakes ssslide and ssslither.”

- Ask your child to think of words to describe the objects they see. Tell your child the word used has to start with the same sound as the word they are describing.
Examples: “delicious donut,” “bouncy ball,” “green grass”

- Play a game where you and your child take turns finding objects around the house to use in silly alliteration sentences. See who can use the most words beginning with the same sound in their sentence.
Example: “Sister’s stinky sock smells sour.”

- Have your child think of silly names for themselves, family, and friends. The new names must be at least three words long, and all of the words in the name must begin with the same sound as the person’s regular name.
Examples: “audible Audrey Octopus,” “hairy helpful Henry,”
“creative character Kim,” and “picky pal Parker”

- Practice tongue twisters.
Familiar tongue twisters:
 - Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
 - He sells seashells by the seashore.
 - How much wood would a woodchuck chuck?

Sentence Segmentation

- Recite a nursery rhyme line by line to your child. After each line, ask your child how many words were heard in that line.

Example: "Do you know the Muffin Man,"

"6 words!"

"Who lives on Drury Lane?"

"5 words!"

Alternate version: Recite a favorite poem verse or song lyric to your child. Have your child clap for each word heard in each line.

- Use any board game and pieces you have available at home (Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, Life, Monopoly, etc.). Tell your child you will take turns saying a sentence. For every word in the sentence, the other player will move one space. Take turns giving the sentences and moving pieces. The first player to the end wins.

Syllable Activities

Familiar Nursery Rhymes:

Mary Had a Little Lamb
Baa, Baa, Black Sheep
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
Hey, Diddle, Diddle
Jack and Jill
I'm a Little Teapot
The Muffin Man
This Little Piggy
Three Blind Mice
Itsy Bitsy Spider

- Show your child pictures of family members and friends. Ask your child to say the name of the person, then to count the number of syllables in each name. If your child has trouble identifying syllables, have him/her wrap their hands around their neck under the jaw and say the name again. Each time the chin drops, it is a syllable!
- Play "Jumping Syllables" with your child. Model how to play the game by giving them a two-syllable word. As you say each syllable, open your right hand, then your left hand. Then cross your hands, showing how you are jumping the syllables to make a new, silly word.

Example: "pen/cil" becomes
"cil/pen"

- Roll a dice. Take turns brainstorming words with as many syllables as the number rolled.
- Think of an animal. Identify the number of syllables in that animal's name, then brainstorm types of food with the same number of syllables which you

Onset and Rime Activities

- Play a word guessing game with your child. Give your child clues one at a time, describing the onset and rime. Once your child understands how to play, take turns giving the clues.

Examples: "It begins with the /r/ sound and rhymes with 'bug'." (rug)

"It begins like 'bed' and ends like 'rest'." (best)

"It ends with /op/ and begins like 'tool'." (top)

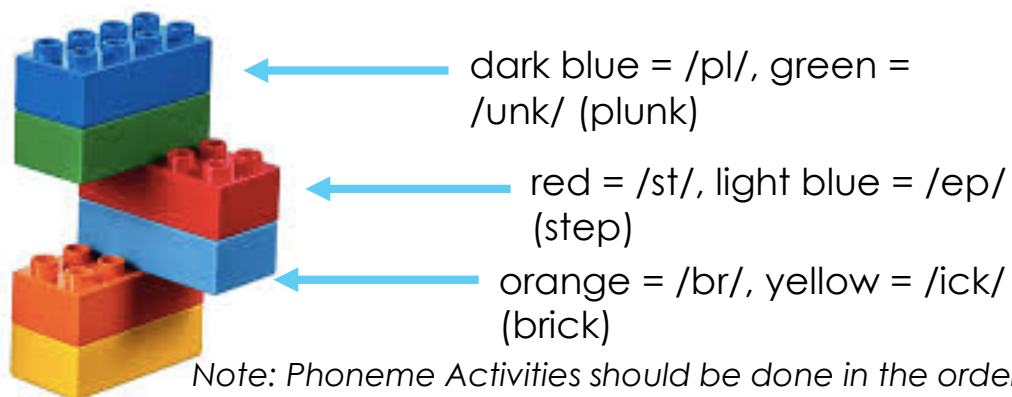
- Turn words into a math problem. Ask your child to solve the equation to build words, using onset and rime.

Examples: "What plus 'et' makes the word *net*?" (/n/)

"/h/ plus what makes the word *hippo*?" (ippo)

- Use different colored building blocks to represent onset sounds and rime sounds. Lock different block combinations together, and say what word is represented. Change the onset blocks to make rhyming words, change the rime block to make new words.

Examples:



Note: Phoneme Activities should be done in the order listed. Follow the arrow to move down the phoneme mastery progression.

Phoneme Activities

- Give your child a list of three words and ask him/her to identify which two begin with the same sound.

Example: "Which words begin with the same sound: *paper*, *pickle*, or *dish*?"

- While out, name different items you see. Ask your child to tell you the first sound heard in each word you give. After your child can successfully tell you the beginning sound, have him/her tell you the last sound.

Examples: "What is the first sound in *road*?" "/r/"

"What is the ending sound in *road*?" "/d/"

- Brainstorm simple words and ask your child to tell you what middle sound is heard.

Examples: "What is the middle sound in *sun*?" "/u/"

"What is the middle sound in *hatch*?" "/a/"

- Turn words into a cheer. Use the following cheer to practice breaking words into their sounds. Replace the words you use each time you cheer.

Cheer: "Listen to my cheer, then shout the sounds you hear.

Cat! Cat! Cat! (Note: These are the words you will change.)

Give me the beginning sound! /c/

Give me the middle sound! /a/

Give me the ending sound! /t/

That's right!

/c/ /a/ /t/ - *Cat! Cat! Cat!*

- Using pennies, pom-poms, different colored blocks, or other similar materials, push an object toward your child for each sound in the word you are thinking of while making the sound. Ask your child to put the sounds together and tell you what word you just said. After he/she can successfully blend the sounds together, ask your child to break words apart into their separate sounds.

Examples: "What word am I saying? /ch/ /a/ /t/" "*Chat.*"

"What are the sounds in *chat*?" "/ch/ /a/ /t/."

- Play a word ladder game with your child. See how many words you can make by changing one sound at a time. Add sounds to the beginning or end of the word. Once your child can successfully add sounds, change the sounds to make new words.

Example 1: "Say *top*. What word do you have if you add /s/ to the beginning?"

"*Stop.*"

"Say *stop*. What word do you have if you add /t/ to the end?"

"*Stopped.*"

Example 2: "Say *dog*. Change the /d/ to /f/. What is your new word?"

"*Fog.*"

"Say *fog*. Change the /g/ to /l/. What is your new word?"

"*Fall.*"

- Play Robot Talk with your child. Tell your child you will say a word like a robot, and he/she need to guess what you are saying. To sound like a robot, break the word into individual sounds. Say the word in a silly robot voice to make it more fun.

Read-At-Home Plan for

Student Success

What is *phonics*?

Phonics is the ability to understand the relationship between letters and the sounds they represent. This includes:

- recognizing print patterns that represent sounds;
- syllable patterns; and
- word parts (prefixes, suffixes, and root words).

Vowels

a, e, i, o, u, y

Consonants

b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z

Common Consonant Digraphs and Blends

bl, br, ch, ck, cl, cr, dr, fl, fr, gh, gl, gr, ng, ph, pl, pr, qu, sc, sh, sk, sl, sm, sn, sp, st, sw, th, tr, tw, wh, wr

Common Vowel Digraphs

ai, au, aw, ay, ea, ee, ei, eu, ew, ey, ie, oi, oo, ou, ow, oy

Common Consonant Trigraphs

nth, sch, scr, shr, spl, spr, squ, str, thr

Phonics

Activities

Letter-Sound Recognition Activities

- Write a letter on one end of each popsicle stick. On two or three other popsicle sticks, write KABOOM. Put all sticks letter-end down in a cup. Take turns pulling popsicle sticks from the cup. Each time you pull a stick, say the letter name and the sound the letter makes. If a KABOOM stick is drawn, that player must put all of their sticks back into the cup. The game is over when all letter sticks have been pulled.
- Write letters on sticky notes, and spread them out across a table top. Say a letter sound and have your child swat the letter that makes the sound.
Alternate version: Once your child learns all of the letter sounds, you can say a word and have your child swat the letters that spell the word (in order).
- Use sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch formation. In each box, write a letter. On the squares that go two across, write the letters found in digraphs or blends. When your child jumps on a square, he/she will say the letter's name and sound. When your child jumps on the crossbar, he/she will say the name and sound of the letter in the left box, then the right box, then shout the sound the digraph or blend makes together.
Alternate version: Play the game with only vowels, but have your child give the long and short vowel sounds. Crossbars can have vowel digraphs.
- Identify which letters and sounds your child needs help with. Write the focus letter names on sticky notes and stick them to bowls (one bowl for each letter). Collect small toys and objects from around the house. Have your child say the name of an object and sort it into the bowl with the correct letter.
- Place magnetic letter tiles on the refrigerator. Call out letter names or letter sounds, and have your child swat the appropriate magnet with a spatula.
- Have your child use play clay to roll out and make the shapes of different letters. Call out the name or sound of the letters and watch them build the letter shapes.

Word Blending Activities

- Cut a toilet paper roll or paper towel roll in half. On one half, write consonants, consonant blends, or consonant trigraphs spaced around the edge. On the other half, write rimes spaced around the edge. Put the pieces on the bottom of a wire clothes hanger. Have your child spin the rolls to make new words.
- Stack three Styrofoam or plastic cups. On the first cup, choose six consonants to write around the outside edge. On the middle cup, write the five vowels around the outside edge. On the third cup, write 6 consonants around the outside edge. Have your child spin the cups to create new words to read.



Alternate version 1: Replace the vowels on the middle cup with vowel digraphs.

Alternate version 2: Replace the consonants on the first and last cups with digraphs, blends, or trigraphs.

Alternate version 3: Add a fourth cup. Write *e, s, es, d, ed, ing* around the edge to create new words.

- Play word building board games such as Scrabble®, Boggle®, or Word Up® with your child.
- Write the names of six different letters on notecards or square pieces of paper, being sure to use vowels and consonants. Play a game with your child to see who can create the most words out of the letters given.
- Use magnetic letter tiles to practice reading word family words. Place two magnets beside one another to make a word family word. Let your child add different letters to the beginning of the word family letters to make new words. Have your child read the words fluently before building a new word.
- Spread a small amount of shaving cream on a table or counter top. Call out letter names or letter sounds and have your child write the appropriate letter in the shaving cream.
- Using letter beads, have your child make word jewelry by stringing together different beads on string or pipe cleaners to make words.



Multisyllable Word Activities

- Write the most common English syllables on notecards. Hold the cards up and have your child practice reading the syllables.
- Have your child use newspapers, magazines, and books to hunt for words with a specific syllable. Have your child read the words and keep a list of all the words they collected for each syllable.
Example: "Look! I found *table* and *apple* to go under Consonant-le, because *ta/ble* and *ap/ple* both have consonants followed by the letters -le in the second syllable!"
- Write the most common English syllables on different sticky notes. Have your child put stickies together to create words (real or nonsense). Have your child practice reading the words they make.
Alternate version: Have your child only make real words from the syllable stickies. After building the words, have your child read the words fluently.
- Using a muffin tin with six cups, label each cup with a different syllable type. Write the most common English syllables on small pieces of paper and have your child sort them into the correct cup.

6 Syllable Types:

Closed (VC, CVC)
Vowel-Consonant-e (VCe)
Open (V, CV)
Vowel Team
Vowel-r
Consonant-le (C-le)

Most Common English Syllables:

ing, er, ter, al, ed, es, tion,
re, oth, ry, ex, en, di, bout,
com, ple, con, per, un,
der, ty, num, peo, ble, af,
ers, mer, wa, ment, pro, ri,
sen, ture, few, dif, pa, tions,
ther, fore, est, ei, si, ent,
ven, ev, ac, ca, fol, ful, na,
col, par, dis, ern, ny, cit,
po, cal, mu, moth, coun,
mon, pe, lar, por, fi, bers,
sec, ap, stud, gan, bod,
tence, ward, nit, nev, ure,
mem, ters, cov, de, ver, tle,
ber, ar, ma, fa, la, tain,
ning, pic, im, ad, tween,
ger, hap, e, i, y, o,

Read-At-Home Plan for

Student Success

What is *fluency*?

Fluency is the ability to read with sufficient speed to support understanding. This includes:

- automatic word recognition;
- accurate word recognition; and
- use of expression.

Fluent readers are able to remember and understand what they have read. This skill bridges word recognition and comprehension. When students can read fluently, it allows the brain to have more space to comprehend the message of the text.

Fluency Activities

Everyday Fluency

- Read to your child! When you read aloud with your child, you are giving him/her a model of what fluent reading sounds like. No matter his/her age, it is important for your child to hear fluent reading.
- Find opportunities for your child to listen and follow along with audio recordings. Websites such as Storyline Online (<https://www.storylineonline.net>) have a variety of recorded stories. Visit your local library to check out the book versions so your child can read along.
- Practice echo reading with your child. Use a less familiar story or text and read small chunks of words, using your finger to track what you are reading. After you finish, let your child echo what you just read, tracking the words. Encourage your child to use the exact same speed and voice tone you used. This is a great activity to use with poetry!
- Reread the same story many times. Repeated reading of a story helps your child to become familiar with the words and sound they make when they are read fluently. You can also encourage your child to reread the same story multiple times, using a timer to see how quickly (and accurately!) your child reads each time he/she goes through the text.
- Encourage your child to read independently! Make sure he/she is reading books that are on his/her independent reading level and encourage 20 minutes of reading a night.

Finding “Just Right” Books

Children should be able to read at least 95% of the words in a text correctly. If they can't, the text is too hard for them to read independently. A quick way to check is have your child open the book to the first page and read aloud. If they struggle with five or more words on the first page of the book, it is too difficult.

Instead, you can read that book to them until it is in their independent reading range!

Sight Word Activities

- Cut out squares of paper or use notecards to create sight words. Use the Fry Sight Word Lists and start with the first 100. Once your child can read those words easily and fluently, move to the second 100. Continue on until your child can fluently read all 1,000 sight words.

Alternate version: Use a timer to see how long it takes your child to read through a sight word list. Correct the words read wrong and try again. Keep track of the time each time your child reads through and see how his/her reading speed increases.

- Write targeted sight words on a blank tic-tac-toe board drawn on notebook or printer paper. Using coins for chips, call out sight words and have your child cover them with a chip. When he/she gets five in a row, have your child read the words out to check for accuracy and to win.
- Write your child's sight words on notecards or squares of construction paper. Set the timer for 30 seconds and see how many sight words he/she can read. As your child reads, separate the words into a "Words I Can Read" pile and a "Words I Need Help With" pile. Review the cards in the "Words I Need Help With" pile before trying again.

Fry's 1st 100 Words

a, about, all, an, and, are, as, at, be, been, but, by, called, can, come, could, day, did, do, down, each, find, first, for, from, get, go, had, has, have, he, her, him, his, how, I, if, in, into, is, it, like, long, look, made, make, many, may, more, my, no, not, now, number, of, oil, on, one, or, other, out, part, people, see, said, see, she, sit, so, some, than, that, the, their, them, then, there, these, they, this, time, to, two, up, use, was, water, way, we, were, what, when, which, who, will, with, words, would, write, you, you

Fry's 2nd 100 Words

After, again, air, also, America, animal, another, answer, any, around, ask, away, back, because, before, big, boy, came, change, different, does, end, even, follow, form, found, give, good, great, hand, help, here, home, house, just, kind, know, land, large, learn, letter, line, little, live, man, me, means, men, most, mother, move, much, must, name, need, new, off, old, only, our, over, page, picture, place, play, point, put, read, right, same, say, sentence, set, should, show, small, sound, spell, still, study, such, take, tell, things, think, three, through, too, try, turn, us, very, want, well, went, where, why, work, world, years

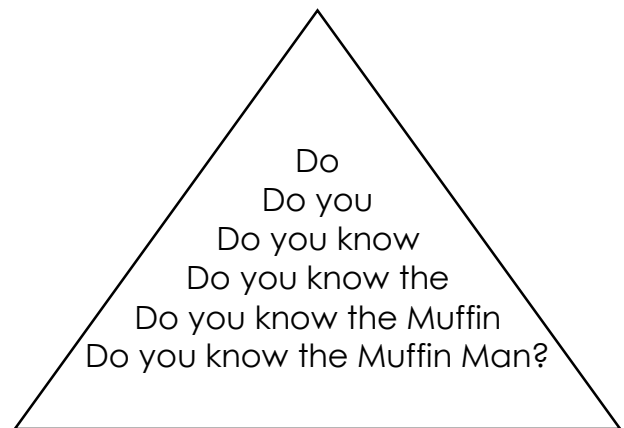
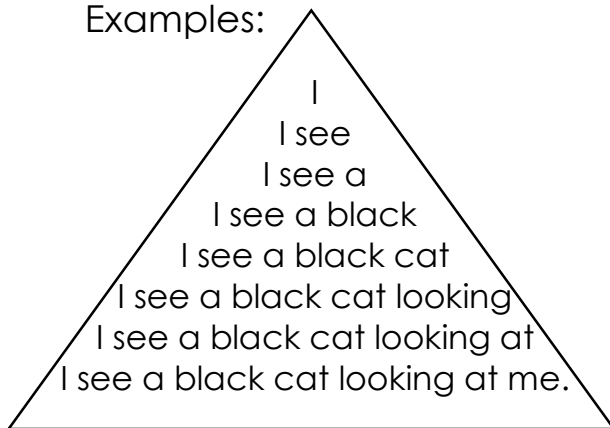
Fry's 3rd 100 Words

Above, add, almost, along, always, began, begin, being, below, between, book, both, car, carry, children, city, close, country, cut, don't, earth, eat, enough, every, example, eyes, face, family, far, father, feet, few, food, four, girl, got, group, grow, hard, head, hear, high, idea, important, Indian, it's keep, last, late, leave, left, let, life, light, lists, might, mile, miss, mountains, near, never, next, night, often, once, open, own, paper, plant, real, river, run, saw, school, sea, second, seem, side, something, sometimes, song, soon, start, state, stop, story, talk, those, thought, together, took, tree, under, until, walk, watch, while, white, without, young

Fluent Phrase Reading Activities

- Print or write out on notebook paper the lyrics of your child's favorite songs (make sure to copy the short phrases exactly). Have your child practice reading a single line until he/she can read it smoothly, then move onto the next.
Alternate version: This activity can also be done with poetry or rhyming books. Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky, Bill Martin Jr., Sandra Boynton, Dr. Seuss, and Anna Dewdney are a few of the many authors whose poems and books work with this activity.
- Draw a large triangle on a piece of paper. Think of a sentence you want your child to practice reading (this can be a sentence you make up, or one from a text). In the triangle, write a line for each word in the sentence, adding a word from the sentence on each line. Have your child read through the entire triangle, until he/she can read the final sentence fluently.

Examples:



- When you read with your child, listen for where natural breaks happen. There is a musical quality to fluent reading – finding the phrasing in language can help your child break longer sentences into smaller chunks, making it easier to read.
- Write common phrases on notecards. Have your child practice reading the cards individually. When he/she can read them fluently, lay cards out side-by-side to make a train of phrases and have your child practice fluently reading a longer version.

Some examples of common phrases are:

“at the house,”
“here and there,”
“some of the people,”
“in a while,”
“must be his,”
“they need help,”
“I like it,”
“want to go,”
“it is like,”
“they want to,”
“near the end”

Fluent Passage Reading

- Find a page from a book at your child's independent reading level. Using a pencil, draw lines between the words where you hear a natural break. Have your child practice reading the entire passage, chunking together the words between the pencil lines as he/she reads. Once your child can fluently read the phrases, erase the pencil marks and have your child fluently read the passage.

Example: "From then on, / every afternoon, / as soon as her mother / had left for bingo, / Matilda would toddle / down to the library. // The walk took / only ten minutes / and this allowed her / two glorious hours / sitting quietly / by herself / in a cozy corner / devouring one book after another. // When she had read / every single children's book / in the place, / she started wandering round / in search of something else."

"From then on, every afternoon, as soon as her mother had left for bingo, Matilda would toddle down to the library. The walk took only ten minutes and this allowed her two glorious hours sitting quietly by herself in a cozy corner devouring one book after another. When she had read every single children's book in the place, she started wandering round in search of something else."

- Timed, repeated readings help your child see that he/she is becoming a more fluent reader! Have your child read a new-to-them piece of text – a short story, poem, or several paragraphs from a chapter. The first time your child reads it, time him/her from start to finish to see how long it took. Have your child read the same piece of text several more times, timing each time, to see how much he/she is improving.

Suggestion: Tie this strategy to math! Let your child use graph paper to draw representations of each timed reading's final time.

How to find your child's fluency score:

1. Choose a 100-word passage from a grade-level text.
2. Have your child read the passage for exactly one minute.
3. Count the total number of words your child read.
4. Subtract from that number the number of words they read wrong. That is their word count per minute (WCPM).

Suggested WCPM by the end of each year:

- First grade:** 60 words read correctly
Second grade: 90 words read correctly
Third grade: 115 words read correctly

Student Success

What is *vocabulary*?

Vocabulary refers to students' knowledge of and memory for word meanings. This includes:

- *receptive vocabulary* (words students understand when they are read or spoken to);

and

- *expressive vocabulary* (words students know well enough to use in speaking and writing).

Having a large receptive and expressive vocabulary assists students with their reading comprehension. A strong vocabulary improves all areas of communication – listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Vocabulary

Activities

Everyday Vocabulary Activities

- Read aloud to your child! Even after your child is able to read on their own, continue to read to him/her. Choose books above your child's reading level, which typically have a broader vocabulary. Through read alouds and talking about the book using words from the text, you are actually teaching your child new words and how they are used.
- Talk as much as possible about what you see, wherever you are. Have a conversation with your child at the store, describing the items you see. Using words such as first, next, and last, describe the process for pumping gas at the station. Talk about what you taste, smell, feel, and see as you follow a new recipe to make dinner.
- Watch favorite movies and television shows with your child with a focus on listening for big words to start using at home. Add these words into your everyday conversations with your child.
Example: "Remember how in Power Rangers they *morphed*, and that meant they changed into superheroes? Can you *morph* into your school clothes?"

Learning Word Meaning Activities

- Use pictures from magazines, advertisements, and newspapers to create word collages to show the meanings of new and difficult words. Having a picture to think about will help your child remember the meaning of the word.
- Write targeted vocabulary words on sticky notes and place them on a checkerboard. Play checkers together. When you land on a space with a vocabulary word, give the definition of the word and use it in a sentence to claim it.
- Using a ball or soft stuffed animal, play "Vocabulary Hot Potato." The person starting with the "potato" will call out a word, passing the "potato" while music plays. The person who ends up holding the "potato" when the music stops must give a definition and use the word in a sentence.

Synonym and Antonym Activities

- Create a family “Bad Word” jar. Pick a few commonly overused words to go in the jar, such as *good* or *sad*. Listen for family members using the “Bad Words,” and encourage your child to think of more specific words to replace the “Bad Word.”

Example: “I had a *good* day; I made a 100 on my vocabulary test!”

“Don’t use that bad word! Use another word!”

“I had an *excellent* day; I made a 100 on my vocabulary test!”

- Name a word. Take turns brainstorming words that mean the same thing as the word that was named.
Alternate version: Play the game brainstorming words that mean the opposite of the word that was named.

What are *synonyms*?

a word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase

Example: *close* and *shut*

What are *antonyms*?

a word opposite in meaning to another

Example: *good* and *bad*

Word Connection Activities

- Play a word association game with your child. Call out a category name, and take turns brainstorming other words that make you think of the category word.

Example: “The category is ‘places to go on vacation.’”

“The beach!” “Theme parks!”

Alternate version: Write down the words as they are brainstormed. Afterward, have your child sort the words into other categories, based on their similarities. Have him/her explain what is similar about all of the words in their new categories.

Example: “I put *train*, *monorail*, *boats*, and *strollers* in the same category because they are all types of transportation people use at theme parks.”

- Practice vocabulary in the kitchen! Pick an ingredient and brainstorm as many words as you can to describe what it looks like, tastes like, feels like, and smells like. Discuss what other recipes use the same ingredient.

Affixes Activities

- Using newspapers, magazines, cookbooks, or storybooks, have your child hunt for words with the targeted prefix or suffix, writing the words your child finds on a piece of paper. Once he/she has found several words, have your child break the words into the affix and the root and explain what the word means.

Example: "I found the word *unthinkable*! If I break it into the root and affixes, it is *un-think-able*. That means that if something is *unthinkable*, you are not able to think of it."

The Most Common Prefixes
anti-, de-, dis-, en-, em-, fore-, in-, im-, il-, ir-, inter-, mid-, mis-, non-, over-, pre-, re-, semi-, sub-, super-, trans-, un-, under-

The Most Common Suffixes
-able, -al, -ation, -ative, -ed, -eous, -en, -er, -es, -est, -ful, -ial, -ible, -ic, -ing, -ion, -ious, -itive, -ity, -ive, -less, -ly, -ment, -ness, -or, -ous, -s, -tion, -ty, -y

- Use craft supplies and items found around the house to make a tree. It can be drawn or 3D. At the bottom of the tree, have your child write or attach a card with a prefix or suffix on it. Write or add cards on the branches with words that have the targeted affix in it. Have your child explain what each word on the tree means, using the affix as a clue.

Example: "My prefix is *mis-*, and it means 'wrong.' So then *misjudge* means to judge wrongly, and *misbehave* means you behaved wrongly."

- Write different roots, suffixes and affixes on building blocks. Have your child piece together different blocks to make words using different pieces. Have him/her write the complete word on a larger building block.

Example:



Read-At-Home Plan for Student Success

What is *comprehension*?

Comprehension is the ability to understand and draw meaning from text.

Comprehension is the ultimate goal of reading. Students who easily comprehend what they just read are more likely to enjoy reading. They are also more effective readers, which helps them academically and in their personal life.

Comprehension Activities

Before Reading Activities

- Take a picture walk with your child. Have your child go page-by-page through the book and look at all of the illustrations, including the cover image. Ask your child what they think is going to happen in the book based on what he/she sees. Who does your child think the story will be about? What does he/she think is going to happen? How does your child think the story will end?

Alternate version: If you are reading a non-fiction text, have your child look at the different text features to help him/her make predictions about the text.

- Read the title of the text to your child. Ask him/her what the title makes them think of – a movie, a television show, another story, or an event from their own life.
- If you are reading a non-fiction text, have a discussion with your child to learn what he/she already knows about the topic. Ask your child if there are any questions about the topic they hope to find answers to as they read the book.
- Set a purpose for reading. It might be to learn something new or to enjoy a story together. Having a reason for reading can encourage reluctant readers to open a book!
- If you are reading a chapter book with your child over several days, have your child give you a recap of what has already happened in the story before starting the new chapter.

What is non-fiction?

Writing that is based on facts, real events, and real people, such as biography or history

What is fiction?

stories that describe imaginary events and people

What are text-features?

Text features are all of the parts of a story or article that are not the main text. They include the table of contents, index, glossary, headings, bold words, sidebars, pictures, captions, and labeled diagrams.

During Reading Activities

- While reading a text, pause every few pages to check your child's understanding of what is being read. Ask *who, what, when, where, why,* and *how* questions. If your child does not know, go back and reread or use pictures to help prompt his/her response.
- While reading, ask your child if what is being read is causing them to think of questions they want answered further in the text.
Examples: "I wonder where else Junie B might be hiding scissors since her mom took her first pair away. I don't think she is done cutting hair yet!"

"It says that Dalmatian puppies are born all white, and then develop spots as they grow older. I wonder if zebras are born all white and develop stripes as they grow older?"
- Help your child learn how to infer meaning from what is not said in the text. When a character has a major event, ask your child to think about how the character might feel, or what their next steps might be based on what he/she has already done in the story.
- If you are reading a chapter book together, have your child summarize what happened at the end of each chapter.
- When reading both fiction and non-fiction texts, it can be helpful to have your child sequence the events of the story to better understand what is happening.
- Encourage your child to visualize the characters, setting, or events from the book he/she is reading. Ask your child to describe, using details from the text, what he/she pictures when reading the story.
- Have your child look back at the predictions made prior to reading the story. Ask your child if his/her predictions came true. If not, ask your child to make new predictions based on what was read.

After Reading Activities

- After reading a story, have your child retell you what happened. Ask your child to include details on the main characters, the setting, and the major events. Encourage your child to retell the story in the correct sequence of events.
- Ask your child to write a letter to the main character in the text. Have your child write about his/her favorite part of the book and include any questions he/she might still have after reading.
- Create a story bag. Use a grocery bag, gift bag, or brown paper lunch sack and fill it with items from around the house that will help your child to retell what they read.

Example: "I read *Fancy Nancy*. In my bag I have glitter because glitter is fancy, and Nancy loves fancy things. I also have an advertisement from the newspaper because Nancy makes an advertisement for her family for fancy lessons. I cut this picture out from a magazine of a lady in a fancy dress because Nancy and her family got dressed up to go to dinner. Then I have a washcloth because Nancy spilled parfait all over herself and had to take a bath. And finally, I have a Hershey's Kiss[®] because at the end of the story Nancy's mom and dad give her a kiss in bed and tell her they love her."

Questions to Ask After Reading:

Who do you think is the most important character in this story? Why?

What do you think is the most important thing the author wanted you to know about _____?

What is one fact you learned from this text?

What clues in the pictures showed you how the character was feeling?

Did you like this book? Why or why not?

- Ask your child if he/she liked how the story ended. Ask your child to write or describe a different ending to the story. Encourage your child to think of an ending that makes sense with the rest of the story.
- If you have read the story together, ask your child to come up with test questions for you about the book. Let your child grade your test to see how well you did.
- If your child has read a non-fiction text, have him/her look online, in newspapers, and in magazines for more information on the book's topic. Have your child decide if the different texts give similar or different information about the topic.

Read-At-Home Plan for

Student Success

Reading Tips to Help Your Child Succeed

- Make reading part of every day, even for just a few minutes. Find the parts of your day where you can add time to read, and areas where you can keep books, so they are always available.
- Talk about the pictures in books. You do not have to read the book to tell a story.
- Let your child turn the pages when you read together.
- Show your child the cover page and explain what the story is about.
- Run your finger along the words as you read them.
- Read the story using different voices for each of the characters. Have fun!
- Choose books about events in your child's life, such as starting school, going to the dentist, or taking care of pets.
- Ask questions about the story. What do you think will happen next? What is this? How does this character feel?
- Let your child ask questions about the story. Talk about familiar activities and objects.
- Let your child retell the story.
- Visit your local library often!

Read-At-Home Plan for Student Success

Resources for Parents

Nebraska Department of Education

<https://www.education.ne.gov/>

The Nebraska Department of Education's website provides information on programs, services, initiatives, and services as well as content area standards. Each department has a page where resources are archived for the public. Visit the NebraskaREADS site for additional resources and ideas on how to support early literacy development.

NebraskaREADS

<https://www.education.ne.gov/nebraskareads/>

NebraskaREADS provides tools and resources to support high-quality literacy instruction for all Nebraska students. The initiative highlights policies, procedures, and practices that guide the selection and implementation of literacy practices and evidence-based interventions, and assists districts as they build family, community, and school partnerships to help students become successful readers, setting them up to learn and succeed.

The Barksdale Reading Institute's Reading Universe

www.readinguniverse.org

The Reading Universe site explicitly outlines every component necessary for children to learn to read. Users can click on links to learn more information about specific components of literacy and how to identify when a skill has been mastered.

Additional Resources for Parents

The Florida Center for Reading Research – Activities for Students

https://fcrr.org/resources/resources_sca.html

Parent Tips: Help Your Child Have a Good School Year

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/parent-tips-help-your-child-have-good-school-year>

Put Reading First: Helping Your Child Learn to Read – A Parent Guide (K-3)

https://www.centeroninstruction.org/files/PutReadingFirst_ParentGuide.pdf

Reach Out and Read

<http://www.reachoutandread.org>



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