Welcome to First Grade!

Congratulations! You are ready for first grade! You have learned many things about reading in Kindergarten. It's important to continue reading for fun. This packet has some fun books for you to read this summer as well as a few activities. Reading for fun helps you learn new words and discover new things. It helps you make your reading sound good too.

On the last page, you'll find a list of books you can read this summer. You are required to read five (5) of these books. For your favorite book, create a poster that shows the characters and where the story happens. At the bottom of the poster, write a sentence that tells about the book. You'll be able to share your poster during the first week of school.

It's good to read some things by yourself and it's fun to listen to your parents read too. Don't let them forget that it's important to make time to read like you did during the school year with your homework.

Enjoy your summer filled with many experiences with your families.

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How to read with your child:

Please continue to read aloud to your child daily. Let him read some of the words he knows. If your child gets stuck on a word, it's okay to give the word. If your child gets tired, take over the reading or stop and pick it up another night. Offer positive reinforcement to keep this fun. That will ensure your child wants to have additional reading time together. Good readers are curious. Ask questions and encourage your child to ask questions. Open-ended questions are the best. Ask "Why?" and "How?" Relate the story to the world, another book, and your life. These connections help your child understand the reading better. Above all, keep it positive! There will be a magical point when your child puts everything together and starts reading.

Vocabulary Builders:

- Talk with your kids. Use new words. Talk about what they mean.
- Read to your child often.
- Play traditional games like Memory, Go Fish, Scrabble, etc.
- Read, read, read.
- Read. The more a child reads, the more words a child sees, and the more words a child learns.

Strengthening Comprehension:

- Ask questions before you read, while you read together, and after you read.
- Let your child ask questions.
- Ask open-ended questions: Why? How?
- Make connections while you're reading

Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate the individual sounds, or phonemes, in spoken words.

- Read books with rhyme and rhythm.
- Play rhyming games with words.
- When playing ball, ask, "What does *ball* begin with?
- When you pass the cup to your child, ask him, "What are the sounds in the word 'cup'?" (say cup slowly)
- Play with words, take the first sound off and say the rest of the word.
- Say a word slowly (saying each sound) and ask your child to say the word.
- Don't fret if your child doesn't get this right away.

Phonics

Phonics is the concept that there is a predictable relationship between phonemes (the sounds of the spoken language) and graphemes (the written letters and spellings that represent those sounds).

- Read aloud often.
- Sing the alphabet often.
- Look for letters wherever you go. Point them out on signs.
- Make letters in fun ways with paint, chalk, sand.
- Make a Memory game that has matches with the letters/pictures.
- Go on a letter hunt. Find things that start with "a" then "b" and so on.

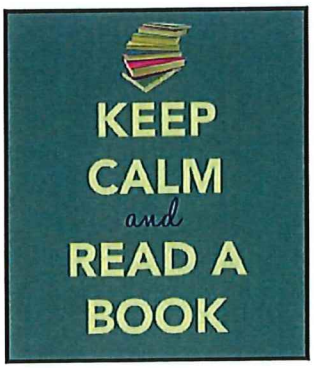
Just Read!

Read. The more your child reads, the more words your child sees, and the more words your child learns.

Fluency:

Fluency is making reading sound good – pausing appropriately, reading at a quick pace, and adding intonation to match what's happening in the story.

- Read aloud.
- Read easy books over and over.
- Read together – take turns and fade your support as needed.
- Try books on tape.
- Have older children read to your younger child.



Books to Read Aloud Together:

You may choose any 5 books, from this list or the one on page 5 or a combination of books from both lists.

Let your child read as many of the words as he/she knows. Let this be an enjoyable time together and read the others for him/her. Your child will learn a lot about how books work and making reading sound good that way!

The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse by Eric Carle

Bailey by Harry Bliss

Curious George by H.A. and Margret Reye

Fish is Fish by Leo Lionni

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crocket Johnson

If You Give a Dog a Donut by Laura Numeroff

Leonardo the Terrible Monster by Mo Willems

Llama, Llama Home with Mama by Anna Dewdney

Three Little Kittens by Jerry Pinkey

Red Sled by Lita Judge

Books to Practice Reading

The books listed below are popular titles at or around your child's reading level. Any book that motivates your child to read is a good choice! Remember to read a total of 5 books!

Anno's Counting Book by Mitsumasa Anno
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin
Do You Want to be My Friend? by Eric Carle
Growing Colors by Bruce McMillan
Have You Seen My Cat? by Eric Carle
Have You Seen My Duckling? by Nancy Tafuri
How Many Fish? by Caron Lee Cohen
I Went Walking by Sue Williams
Joshua James Likes Trucks by Catherin Petrie
Look, Look, Look by Tana Hoban
Look What I Can Do by Jose Aruego
Mrs. Wishy Washy by Joy Cowley
Now We Can Go by Ann Jonas
Pancakes for Breakfast by Tomie dePaloa
Pancakes, Crackers, and Pizza by Marjorie Eberts
Raindrops by Larry Brimmer
Roll Over by Merle Peek
The Berenstain Bears in the House of Mirrors by Stan & Jan Berenstain
Where's the Fish? by Taro Gomi
Where's the Halloween Treat? by Harriet Ziefert

Assignment:

Read five books. For your favorite book, create a poster that shows the characters and where the story happens. At the bottom of the poster, write a sentence that tells about the book. You'll be able to share your poster during the first week of school.