

Dear Families,

It is so hard to believe that the first half the school year is already behind us! As we look forward to progressing through the second half of the year, we would like to give you some insight, tips, and upcoming activities related to reading.

For the first half of the year we worked on letter identification, sound knowledge and letter writing skills. As we move ahead, we will continue to review the letters and sounds but are focusing on identifying words that begin with the sound of the letter (the initial sound). The next step will be for the scholars to use their letter sound knowledge to practice sounding out words to read and write. Along with sounding out words, we will begin to introduce two sight words and a word family each week to help your scholars become skilled readers. The weekly newsletter will help you identify the weekly sight words and word family, so check the website. We have also attached sight word flash cards. As we introduce the sight words, you can practice those sight words at home. Please keep the flash cards at home.

To support your scholars reading skills at home, there will be a reading bag that will come home each Friday. The bag may contain different activities each week for you and your scholar to work on. Some activities may include a short book or poem to read highlighting the sight words or word family for that week, or an activity to re-enforce the word family. Have your scholar read as much of the book or poem themselves, remembering that the sight words are the target words and the other words can be sounded out or you can help your scholar identify the words. Do not expect your scholar to read every word, just focus on the sight words or word family words. Encourage your scholar to use their reading finger to track the words as they read. By the end of the year, the goal will be for your scholar to read books fluently, meaning not stopping for unknown words. The more you and your scholar read the book or poem, the better. Please read the book or poem over the weekend with your scholar and send them back in the reading bag to school on Monday. The books and poems need to be returned each week; the extra activities can be left at home for additional practice. We will use the reading bags during the week so it is extremely important that you send them back to school. At the end of the year your scholar will have their very own collection of books and poems so they can continue to practice reading over the summer.

Helpful Tips Reading At Home

- **Read to your scholar daily** – consistency in reading at school and home is the best way to develop and strengthen all reading skills.
- Before beginning, have your scholar point out the title, author, and illustrator. Help them to read the title by using decoding skills-Do they recognize any sight words? Does the illustration help? Can they sound out the words in the title?
- Take a book walk (look at the pictures only) and talk about what they think the story will be about. Will it be fiction (make believe)or nonfiction (factual)?
- As you read, point to each word, using your reading finger(first finger or pointer finger) so your scholar can get used to following (or tracking) the words.
- Stop frequently in the story and review what is happening to help your scholar learn how to follow the story, look for clues as to what will happen next, and remember the order that things happen in the story.
- Ask your scholar to identify the characters in the story, the setting, and the problem/solution if there is one.
- Have your scholar re-tell the story to you in their own words.
- After you read, have them point out letters or sight words that they know.
- Count words in sentences and identify punctuation.
- Have fun and enjoy the one-on-one time! It's a great way for them to show off how much they are learning!

If you would like to read more information about how to support your beginning reader, here are some great websites you can check out:

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents/>

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/>

<http://www.starfall.com/>

We hope that these suggestions help you at home and as always, feel free to contact us if you have any questions!

Mrs. Bauer and Mrs. Galvan

Dolch Sight Words: Pre-Primer Flashcards

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