



Literacy

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

Tips for Elementary School Parents

Grades 3-5: Reading



READING GOAL: Students learn about their world through fiction and nonfiction. They build background knowledge that will help them succeed throughout their school years and beyond.

Students Can:

- Read many different kinds of literature such as stories, poetry, plays as well as a wide range of informational (nonfiction) texts related to history, social studies, science and other content areas.
- Focus more on gaining skills and developing stamina to read, learn from and respond to grade-level informational (nonfiction) texts.*

*Texts at the appropriate level of difficulty as consistent with the demands of the standards.

How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Read and discuss texts on a variety of topics with your child.
- Find out what interests your child and read many texts about each of those topics.
- Select newspaper or magazine articles that may interest your child, and then read and talk about the articles together.
- Use technology to find child-friendly websites where children can find articles that interest them.

READING GOAL: Students apply the basic reading skills they have learned to read challenging text, think and talk about what the author says, and then apply what they have learned from the texts.

Students Can:

- Think deeply about what the author says and analyze key ideas.
- Actively participate in discussions with their classmates to share and explain their thinking and reactions about the text.
- Use the author's words to support their responses to questions about the text. This information can be located by underlining and or highlighting the author's words to support their responses about the text.

How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- While reading a story or informational text with your child, stop often to discuss what the author is saying.
- Encourage your child to ask questions about the text, and then explore the answers together by going back in the text to find the answers.
- After asking your child what he or she thinks about something that was read, also ask what they read in the text that prompted their thinking.
- Encourage and allow your child to ask you questions about the text; answer the questions using evidence from the text.

READING GOAL: Students will work hard to understand complex text and continue to read on even though the text may seem difficult; such persistence will help students learn how to comprehend complex text and eventually build their “reading muscles” to tackle even more challenging text.

Students Can:

- Read texts that are more challenging than texts they've read before.
- Learn how to use strategies taught to define unknown vocabulary found in the text.
- Draw inferences by “reading between the lines” to understand something the author hasn't said directly.
- Point to key details from the text to support their answers to questions (instead of using memory only).
- Tell key details and main ideas in the story or the events and important facts in the informational text.

Students will be supported while reading these challenging texts through instruction and guidance from their teachers and through teamwork with their peers.

How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Engage in daily reading to and with your child (fiction and nonfiction). This will expose children to rich vocabulary found in texts.
- Talk about interesting words and what they mean. Make it a point to use these words in conversation with your child.
- Help your child build background knowledge about a particular topic by reading several texts about that topic. The more your child knows about a topic, the easier it will be to understand text about that topic.
- If your child seems frustrated when reading complex text and thinking deeply, encourage him or her and talk it out. Thinking deeply is often challenging for children.
- Ask your child questions about the text. When your child answers, encourage him or her to go back to the text to find the words that support the answer.
- Ask your child's teacher for suggestions about the kinds of texts your child should be reading.
- Expect your child to point to information within the text.

Resources

Useful Websites:

- Council of the Great City Schools Parent Roadmaps | www.cgcs.org/Page/328
- GreatKids Milestones parent-friendly grade level videos | <http://milestones.greatkids.org>
- Parents' Guides to Student Success—National PTA | www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success
- Repeated reading | www.readingrockets.org/strategies/timed_repeated_readings

Literary and Informational Texts:

- Goodreads | www.goodreads.com
- ReadWorks | www.readworks.org