



Literacy

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

Tips for Elementary School Parents

Grades 3-5: Language, Writing, and Speaking & Listening



LANGUAGE GOAL: Students will demonstrate their ability to use the rules governing grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in their writing and speaking. Students will learn and use general academic vocabulary as well as vocabulary specific to particular subject areas. Students will recognize and understand the meaning of the figurative language they encounter in texts.

Students Can:

- Learn and use the conventions of standard English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in their writing and speaking.
- Use a variety of strategies to determine new words and new meanings.
- Understand how figurative language expresses a meaning different from the literal meaning.
- Recognize word relations.
- Learn and use grade-appropriate general and academic language.

How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Read a variety of text with your child to grow and develop language.
- Show your child how to use multiple resources to find the meaning of new words.
- With your child, make connections to related words in reading, conversations and media.
- Read aloud to your child, then discuss what has been read.
- Expose your child to rich language and vocabulary through reading, cultural experiences and exploration.

WRITING GOAL: The greater emphasis on writing will require more time to write—in school and out. Instead of being an isolated subject, writing will become a tool to learn and also a tool through which students demonstrate their learning across content areas. By using technology to support and improve students' projects and presentations (and not merely for word processing), students' excitement and active involvement in their own learning will grow.

Students Can:

- Write to communicate understanding in grade appropriate subject matter.
- Write to respond to multiple topics and modes.
- Produce arguments, informative/explanatory writing and narrative writing geared for different specified purposes and audiences.
- Research and gather information from multiple reliable sources.
- Incorporate technology in their writing.
- Edit and revise writing with grade-appropriate skills.

How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Encourage your child to write on multiple topics and genres at home.
- Model writing for your child.
- Co-write with your child.
- Play word games to help develop your child's spelling, vocabulary and speaking skills.
- Confer with your child about their writing offering tips for improvement in grammar, punctuation, structure and word choice.
- Encourage your child to read widely to hear a variety of word choices and structures.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING GOAL: Students learn to work together in collaborative groups to create, learn and share knowledge. Through speaking and listening to their classmates, students build and demonstrate understanding.

Students Can:

- Communicate clearly and appropriately what they have learned from their reading.
- Work together with classmates to discuss what they've read, conduct research and report their findings.
- Communicate their knowledge and ideas to wide and varied audiences.

How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Encourage your child to become active in community groups and activities that include opportunities which support sharing ideas and knowledge with others.
- Model good listening habits by allowing your child to talk about a topic without interruption.
- Engage in discussions with your child about topics of interest, and model appropriate turn-taking.
- Provide opportunities for your child to give and explain step-by-step directions for doing something, such as programming features on your smartphone or other media device or preparing a favorite dish.
- Help your child develop good collaboration skills by providing opportunities to work with others to accomplish a task or project.

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