



# Literacy

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

## Tips for Middle School Parents

### Grades 6-8: Language and Speaking & Listening



**LANGUAGE GOAL:** Through exposure to complex texts and direct instruction, students will develop, build and use general academic vocabulary as well as vocabulary specific to particular subject areas. Students will learn and use grammar, punctuation, spelling and capitalization rules.

#### Students Can:

- Use grade-level conventions and grammar when speaking and writing.
- Use a variety of strategies and resources to figure out new words and meanings.
- Learn and use grade-appropriate general and content-specific words in writing and conversation.
- Use and understand figurative language to express thoughts and feelings.
- Use and understand word relations within and across categories and shades of meaning.

#### How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Have students speak and write in complete sentences.
- Have conversations with your child to promote language growth and development.
- Play word games with your child to assist them in expanding their oral and written language.
- Show your child how to use different resources to figure out new words and meanings.
- 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.

**SPEAKING AND LISTENING GOAL:** Students will work collaboratively with their peers. Students will participate in and learn from discussions with peers. Students will demonstrate appropriate speaking and listening skills.

#### Students Can:

- Prepare and actively participate in discussions about a variety of topics.
- Actively participate in conversations with classmates about grade-level topics.
- Use evidence to support claims and rebuttals.
- Verbally recall and summarize information based on what they hear.
- Deliver oral and written presentations.

#### How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Have conversations with your child about a variety of topics.
- Set aside some time for you and your child to actively take turns participating in discussions about shared interests, current and upcoming events, or desires and plans for the future.
- Ask your child to select and read about a current event or topic of interest and then to prepare a formal oral presentation about it to deliver to the family.
- Remind your child to choose and use print media, oral media, visual media and other media in presentations.

## Resources

### Useful Websites:

- Council of the Great City Schools Parent Roadmaps | [www.cgcs.org/Page/328](http://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](http://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success)

### Literary and Informational Texts:

- Goodreads | [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)
- ReadWorks | [www.readworks.org](http://www.readworks.org)