



**Teachers, parent(s), and child must all be involved to build successful readers. Here's what you can do to reinforce and continue reading skills and strategies at home...**

### **Read "Just Right Books"**

Goldilocks tried the Three Bears' porridge, chairs, and beds. She continued to try each one until she found the ones that were "just right" for her. The books your child reads can be thought of in the same way.

A book that is "just right" is one that your child can read independently. It is not too hard and it is not too easy. It's a good fit - it's "just right". Here is one way to help your child choose such a book:

## Five Finger Rule

While reading the first page of a book, count the unknown words (using fingers to keep track is fine). If there are five or more unknown words, the book is too hard for now. Read that book together.

Another important consideration - some first graders have learned to read many words. They even may be reading "chapter books". However they might not be understanding what's been read. Ask your child lots of questions about the story in general and about specific pages to see if he really understands what was read. It also is important to monitor your child's choices for appropriate content.

## Reading Strategies

### Sound It Out

Use the phonics rules that we are learning in class.

### Chunk it up

Break the word into syllables. Remember, each syllable must have a vowel.

### Word in a Word

Look for words within words.

### Find the base word

Cover suffixes and prefixes to find the baseword.

## At home you can help your child by . . .

- Pointing out the letter-sound relationships your child is learning on labels, boxes, newspapers, magazines and signs.
- Listening to your child read words and books from school. Be patient and listen as your child practices. Let your child know you are proud of his reading.
- Teaching the meaning of words, especially words that are important to understanding a book.



- Teaching ways to learn the meaning of new words. Teachers cannot possibly teach students the meaning of every new word they see or read. Children should be taught how to use dictionaries to learn word meanings, how to use known words and word parts to figure out other words, and how to get clues about a word from the rest of the sentence.

- Helping children understand what they are reading. Good readers think as they read and they know whether what they are reading is making sense.

Teachers help children to check their understanding. When children are having difficulty, teachers show them ways to figure out the meaning of what they are reading.

- Rereading familiar books. Children need practice in reading comfortably and with expression using books they know.

- Building reading accuracy. As your child is reading aloud, point out words he missed and help him read words correctly. If you stop to focus on a word, have your child reread the whole sentence to be sure he understands the meaning.

- Building reading comprehension. Talk with your child about what she is reading. Ask about new words. Talk about what happened in a story. Ask about the characters, places, and events that took place. Ask what new information she has learned from the book. Encourage her to read on her own.

## **Make reading a part of every day!**

- Share conversations with your child over meal times and other times you are together. Children learn words more easily when they hear them spoken often. Introduce new and interesting words at every opportunity.

- Read together every day. Spend time talking about stories, pictures, and words.

- Be your child's best advocate. Keep informed about your child's progress in reading and ask the teacher about ways you can help.

▪Be a reader and a writer. Children learn habits from the people around them.

▪Visit the library or bookstores often. Story times, computers, homework help, and other exciting activities await the entire family.

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***Links to more valuable information on reading with your child:***

**>Reading is Fundamental**

Whether you're a parent, guardian, grandparent, or an older sibling, you can help a child learn to love reading! This web site gives ideas for Motivating Kids to Read, Choosing Good Books, Reading Aloud, Literacy-Rich Homes, Seasonal Activities, and a data-base for book searches.

**>Reading Rockets 101**

Learn about phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary on this informational web site.