



Literacy

THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

Tips for Elementary School Parents

Grades K-2: Language, Writing, 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 of grammar when speaking and writing.
- Use strategies to figure out the meaning of new words.
- Understand that words have connections to one another and can be synonyms, opposites or belong to the same category.
- Use newly learned words when speaking and writing.

How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Encourage rich language and the usage of correct grammar by reading books aloud to your child.
- Have your child try to identify new words from the context (pictures or other words) of the story.
- Play word games where you and your child ask each other for synonyms or opposites of words found in the text or used in conversation.
- Ask for examples of words that fit into the same category, then ask the child to explain his/her reasoning.
- Make a game and count how many times your child uses and hears new words in conversations.

Writing Goal: Students will write frequently to different audiences and for different purposes. When writing, students must use evidence from the text to support their response (ideas, claims, position, reaction, etc.).

Students Can:

- With help from adults, write stories, explanations and opinion pieces that include an introduction, reasons, facts or details, and a conclusion.
- With help from adults, revise and edit work.
- With help from adults, participate in shared (whole class or small group) research and writing projects.

How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Read rich text aloud and engage in deep conversations with your child to strengthen his/her writing ability.

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:

- Participate in conversations with classmates about grade-level topics and texts in small groups and larger groups.
- Follow agreed-upon rules about how to respond to others, ask questions and use details from the text when answering.

How Parents or Caregivers Can Help:

- Have conversations with your child about the text using words and phrases from the text such as character names, places, events, etc.

Resources

Useful Websites:

- Rhyming Books | <http://goodreads.com/shelf/show/rhyming>
- Word families activities | www.readingrockets.org/strategies/onset_rime
- Phonics and word recognition | www.readingrockets.org/helping/target/phonics
- Sight word practice | www.readingrockets.org/article/tutoring-strategies-primary-grades

Literary and Informational Texts:

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