



Grades K - 1

Read-At-Home Plan for Student Success



Student _____

Grade _____ Teacher _____

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES

Activities to help your child excel in the six components of reading

- Oral Language
- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

Wakulla County Schools' Read-at-Home Plan, K - 1

Parents fill a critical role in student success. They are the first and most influential teachers, and they understand the importance of their student's achievement in school.

Reading is the foundational skill, which opens all doors of learning. As such, it is vital that students achieve reading proficiency in grades K – 3, so that they can use this skill to continue to access knowledge throughout their lives. The National Center for Educational Statistics shares research that attests the importance of literacy activities in the home as one component of student success in reading (*The Condition of Education, 2003*).

This Read-at-Home plan is provided to assist parents in providing reading support at home. In addition to reading with children for 20 minutes per day, the enclosed strategies can be used to support them in their identified area of need. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the classroom teacher if there are questions or additional support is needed.

Read-At-Home Plan

Date _____ Current Level of Intervention (Tier 1 Tier II Tier III)

Student's Data:

Assessments	Beginning of Year	Middle of Year	Grade Level End-of-Year Target
Star Early Literacy			
Star Reading			
iReady			
Other			

Current Classroom Intervention: _____

Identified Area(s) of Need: (Check all areas that apply.)

- Oral Language
- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

The Read-at-Home Plan is organized by these areas. Specific suggestions for support may be found in each section.

Basic Support to Provide at Home

Talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with your child daily. Use descriptive words when talking. For example: “Did you see the tiny gray squirrel picking up the acorn under the large oak tree? What do you suppose he is going to do with it?” • Have your child repeat and follow simple directions. • Model answering questions in complete sentences. For example: “Did you finish cleaning your room?” Instead of accepting “yes” or “no”, model “Yes, I have finished cleaning my room.” • If your child is watching television, talk about what is happening and why?
Read Aloud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child needs to hear the vocabulary in books that he/she is not yet able to read independently. Reading aloud and talking about the information in the book will help them develop an ear for the language. • Choose a word from each book to focus on, and try to use it in your talk during the week. You can even post it on the refrigerator as a reminder. • Be sure to visit the public library, and take advantage of the opportunities it holds for your child.
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • board games. These games can promote language and following direction skills. They also help children develop social skills, as they relate to the other players in the game. Some good ones for this age group include “Uncle Wiggly”, “Guess Who”, “Scrabble Junior”, “Memory”, but any game that has you talking with your child will work. • other games, like “I Spy”, which helps children think about categories and descriptions. • coordination and muscle-building games. Play Dough can help strengthen the muscles that children need for writing. Games like Hopscotch and Ring Toss build eye-hand coordination.
Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with your child. Children this age should have simple chores to complete. This is important in teaching them to follow directions and to stick to a task until it is finished. • Some simple chores may include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ folding all of the red clothes. ▪ sorting the clothing for folding. ▪ setting the table. ▪ getting clothes ready for the next day. ▪ helping pack lunches.
Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reading. When your child sees you reading, it helps him/her connect with the importance of reading in everyday life. It is not just something we do at school. • Read environmental print. Wherever you are, look for words. You may see store names, street signs, directions in the doctor’s office, prices and labels in stores, etc. Help your child pay attention to these to reinforce how reading helps us each day.
Remember	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic entertainment does not build effective communication skills (https://www2.ed.gov/programs/readingfirst/2008conferences/language.pdf)
Ensure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that your child is rested and in attendance at school each day. Students who miss over ten days of school each year are much more likely to experience difficulty in learning to read.

The following pages provide more specific ideas for each of the areas of reading.

Oral Language

Oral language creates a foundation for learning to read. Hearing and using many words in conversation and play allows children to connect with words that they will see in print. While the importance of oral language begins at birth, here are activities that can be used to build students’ oral language once they enter school.

Kindergarten	First Grade
<i>Review the basic support on page 2.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read aloud to your child, and talk about what words mean. Ex. Where is the monkey in the picture? <i>The monkey is beneath the fruit in the tree. This means he is lower than the fruit in the tree.</i> ▪ Play describing games as you buy groceries or do work around the house. Be as specific as possible. Ex. I see a tree. Let’s name things we know about the tree. <i>The tree is large. It is growing in the back yard. It has many small branches, but the leaves are larger than the leaves in the tree beside it. The leaves are green, with some yellow on them. There is shade underneath the tree, because the leaves and branches block the sun from the ground. The tree has a brown and gray trunk that is rough to touch. The limbs are low enough for me to reach, so I could probably climb the tree.</i> Keep the game going as long as you can, with each person adding details. ▪ Practice having your child use complete sentences. When he/she wants something, ask them to ‘use their words’ rather than just point. Ex. <i>May I have some cereal, please?</i> ▪ Make up silly stories and rhyming sentences. Ex. The fat cat sat on a _____. Little Joe likes to _____. ▪ Let your child help you retell familiar tales, like “Little Red Riding Hood”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue and expand on suggestions for kindergarten. ▪ Listen carefully when your child is telling you about something and then tell it back to him/her. ▪ Ask your child to restate something you have said. ▪ Practice telling stories. What happened first, next, last? Add as much detail as possible. These can be stories about your family. ▪ Ask who, what, where, when, why, and how questions to help your child add more detail. ▪ Share riddles. Ex. “What has doors and runs on the highway?” Let your child make up riddles. ▪ Have your child restate directions. Ex. Tell me what you need to do before you go to bed. <i>“I need to take my bath, brush my teeth, get my backpack ready, and kiss you goodnight before I go to bed.”</i> ▪ Ask your child specific questions. Instead of “what did you do at school today”, ask “tell me about one friend you talked with today”. ▪ Model and expect precise language. Instead of using filler words like ‘thingy’ or ‘that thing’, use the correct name of the object. Instead of saying “I don’t feel good”, ask your child to tell you specifically where or in what they he/she feels poorly.

Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness is the first step in beginning to recognize sounds in words. It is the ability to hear and distinguish sounds. This includes:

- Recognizing sounds, alone and in words;
- Adding sounds to words;
- Orally taking words apart by breaking them into their different sounds (“bat” has three sounds - /b//a//t/. “Bay” has two sounds /b//ay/.)
- Substituting sounds (what word would you make if you changed the /m/ to /t/ in “bam”?)

NOTE: When you see a letter written as /b/ in this guide, it is referring to the sound of the letter, not the name.

Kindergarten	First Grade
<i>Review the basic support on page 2.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play “I Spy” with your child, but instead of giving a color say, “I spy something that begins with /b/”. ▪ Find pictures that begin with a certain sound. ▪ Stretch out a word. “How many /r/ sounds do you hear in ‘tot’? /t/ /o/ /t/ (3) ▪ Change the first letter of words to make new words. Bob, cob, sob, rob, mob, job,... ▪ Change the last letter of words to make new words. Cat, can, cap, cab, can, cam, ▪ Change the vowel sound in short words to make a new word. Sat, sit, set; mat, mitt, mutt, met; ... ▪ Say words for your child, and have them tell you the sound. “What sound do you hear in the middle of ‘dad’? What sound do you hear in the middle of ‘mom’?” ▪ Read alphabet book and listen for the sounds in the words. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue and extend on activities from kindergarten. ▪ Delete sounds. Say ‘pan’. Now say ‘pan’ without the /p/. ▪ Say just the sounds in words, and have your child tell you the word: /r//a//m/ - what word? ▪ Ask “What is the difference between the sounds in “mat” and “map”; “jump” and “thump”; etc.?” ▪ Take apart (segment) more difficult words: “How many sounds do you hear in ‘shark’ /sh//ar//k/? (3) Other words: like, mate, jump, chum, sheep, bolt, school, tree, etc. ▪ Talk about sounds and words wherever you are. “What part of WalMart rhymes with ‘cart’?”
Phonological Awareness Activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Think of words that rhyme. Ex. Home/roam; come/some; eat/meat ▪ Read rhyming books, and have the child fill in the rhymes. ▪ Say a sentence aloud, and ask your child to tell you how many words are in the sentence. You may have them put down an object (bean, shell, etc.) for each word, and then count. ▪ Sing rhyming songs and nursery rhymes. ▪ Clap syllables in words – How many parts in ‘puppy’? (2) ▪ Make up silly rhymes: fat cat; big pig; squirrel with a curl; etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue and extend on activities from kindergarten. ▪ Have child segment words: “Say ‘Monday’ without ‘Mon’”. (day); Say ‘bigger’ without ‘big’. (er) ▪ Change syllables: “Say ‘birdhouse’. Now change ‘bird’ to ‘dog’. What is the new word?” (doghouse) ▪ Clap the syllables in people’s names: Ben-jamin; Al-ex; Kim-ber-ly ▪ What did I leave out? The adult says several words, and then repeats leaving out a word. The child identifies the missing word. Ex. “stumble, door, fence – stumble, fence” - the missing word is ‘door’. Increase the number of words as the child gets better.

Phonics

Phonics is the ability to understand the relationship between letters and the sounds they represent. This includes:

- Recognizing print patterns that represent sounds;
- Syllable patterns:
- Word parts (prefixes, suffixes, and root words).

The words in your child’s spelling list each week have certain sound/spelling patterns that, when understood, support their reading and writing.

Writing the letters is a part of mastering phonics. When you have your child write letters, please check the following:

- Help your child hold the pencil correctly.
- Always begin at the top of the letter. No letter is made from bottom to top.
- Always move from left to write. For example, a ‘d’ begins at the top of the circle, while a ‘b’ begins at the top of the stick.
- Your child’s teacher can provide additional assistance with this.

Kindergarten	First Grade
<i>Review the basic support on page 2.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kindergarten students must learn the names and sounds of the letters of the alphabet and many of their spellings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First grade students must master digraphs and blends: bl, br, ch, ck, cl, cr, dr, fl, fr, gh, gl, gr, ng, ph, pl, pr, qu, sc, sh, sk, sl, sm, sn, sp, st, sw, th, tr, tw, wh, wr, and common long vowel spellings, such as silent e (mate); and two vowels together, like in bay, book, cow, joy, feet, tea, and pail.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make cards with the letters on them. When you hold up a card, have the child make the sound. ▪ You may also put the cards in a bag, and have your child draw them out and say the sound. ▪ Make an alphabet book with one letter on each page. Have your child look for or draw pictures of things that begin with that letter. ▪ Put the letter cards face down. Draw a letter and say a word that begins with that letter. Have your child tell you the letter (without seeing the card). If he/she is correct, they get to keep the card. ▪ Use magnetic letters on your refrigerator to make words. ▪ Building words: Using magnetic letters or word cards, make a three-letter-word (can). Have your child read the word. Everyday, change one letter to make a new word. Start by changing only the beginning letter (can, ban, fan, man, tan, van, pan). Then change only the ending letter (pan, pat, pal, pad). Finally, change only the middle letter (pan, pin, pen, pun). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue and extend on activities from kindergarten. ▪ Use magnetic letters or Scrabble tiles to make words. Change letters in the words made, and read the new word. Ex. Made – change ‘d’ to ‘l’ – new word: male) ▪ Read books together. Stop on words that your child can sound out, and have the child supply the word. ▪ Instead of the individual letter cards used in kindergarten, make cards with the blends and digraphs listed above, and play the games with them. ▪ Have your child create a new word using the same spelling pattern as the words on the spelling list. Example: word on list – ‘clamp’; new words – ‘ramp’, ‘stamp’ ▪ Continue to stress forming the letters correctly (see notes above). ▪ Have your child label items in the house or on his/her pictures.

Fluency

Fluency is the ability to read with enough speed to support understanding. This includes:

- Automatic word recognition
- Accurate word recognition
- Use of expression

Kindergarten	First Grade
<i>Review the basic support on page 2.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read many different types of texts aloud to your child to provide an understanding of what reading should sound like. Be sure to use expression when reading. This may include making the sounds in the story or changing your voice for different characters. ▪ Recite nursery rhymes and poems to build familiar phrases in speech. ▪ In a repetitive text, ask your child to repeat the familiar phrase with you. Ex. In the story “The House that Jack Built” your child can join in every time you get to the phrase ‘that lay in the house that Jack built’. ▪ Read along with audio books. ▪ Retell stories. ▪ Your student must be able to quickly give sounds for the letters of the alphabet, so continue to practice until the recognition is automatic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue and expand on kindergarten activities. ▪ When you read a story, use appropriate expression during the speaking parts (dialogue). Encourage your child to copy your expression. Talk with him/her about what that expression means. Ex: If the character is excited about going to the zoo, he/she should make the voice sound excited. ▪ Encourage your child to read out loud along with you. ▪ Point out or have your child identify punctuation marks (?, ., !) and make your voice change based on the punctuation mark. ▪ Your child should be able to automatically recognize more and more words as he/she moves through the year, so continue to practice word recognition. ▪ Practice word recognition in phrases. Ex. ‘in the park’, ‘in the car’, ‘on the sand’, ‘at the house’, ‘with her mom’, etc. ▪ Make books of song lyrics for your child to read. ▪ Record your child reading.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary is knowledge of and memory for word meanings.

This includes:

- Receptive vocabulary – the words that we understand when read or spoken to us
- Expressive Vocabulary – words we know well enough to use in speaking and writing

Kindergarten	First Grade
<i>Review the basic support on page 2.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use positional words like beside, below, under, over, on, beneath, above, around, inside, outside, etc. You can play simple games like Simon Says to reinforce these words. Ex. Simon Says put your finger beneath the table. ▪ Use ordinal (order) words: first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, etc. Play games where your child follows directions to line up toys. Example: Let’s have a parade! Place your car first; Put the doll second in line; etc. ▪ Talk about how things are similar and different. Ex. How is a dog similar to/different from a cat? ▪ Use a variety of words to express emotions and feelings. Example: If your child says “I don’t feel good”, reply with “I am sorry that you feel ill”. Instead of ‘happy’, use words like ‘joyful’, ‘ecstatic’, ‘astounding’, etc. ▪ Talk with your child as you visit places, using correct and specific vocabulary. Ex. “We are going to <i>grocery</i> store. Let’s pick out some vegetables, like green beans, yellow corn, and bright red tomatoes. What else may we find at the grocery store?” ▪ Play category games with words. If you read a book about a pet, list as many words as you can that could go in a ‘pet’ category. (cat, dog, hamster, gerbil, etc.) Then ask, ‘would caterpillar fit in this category’? Why or why not? ▪ Look for new words as you read, and use them in your conversations with your child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue and expand on activities from kindergarten. ▪ As your child begins to read more independently, talk about the words in the books he/she is reading. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep a list of words on your refrigerator. ○ Make a card for each new word. Play category games. ○ Talk about words that mean the same (synonyms) and opposites (antonyms). ▪ Use descriptive language. “You were running so fast, that you looked like an airplane zooming by.” “That squirrel is <i>scampering</i> quickly across the <i>lawn</i>. Where do you think he is going? Why?” ▪ Be conscious of words. The vocabulary you use with your child will help prepare him/her for reading success. ▪ Make lists. Ex. “What do I mean when I say ‘clean up your room’? List the activities: pick up the toys; straighten the cover on your bed; put the books on the shelf; put your shoes in the closet; etc. Then have the child complete the activities on the list. ▪ Choose a chapter book to read aloud, reading one chapter or portion each day. Keep a list of interesting words you find in the text. ▪ Play <i>Hot Potato</i> with synonyms. Choose a word, and then your child must think of another word that means the same thing. Take turns until neither player can think of another word. Ex. You may say ‘cold’, and your child might say ‘freezing’. Then you could say, ‘chilly’, and so on. You can try the game again with opposites (antonyms).

Comprehension

Comprehension is the ability to understand and draw meaning from text. A child is not truly reading until they are beginning to comprehend.

This includes:

- Paying attention to important information to follow a story or retrieve knowledge from text;
- Interpreting specific meanings in text;
- Identifying the main idea and key (important) details;
- Verbal responses to questions;
- Making connections between texts and between experiences and text.

Kindergarten	First Grade
<i>Review the basic support on page 2.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sequencing: Talk about errands that you will run. Use sequencing words (first, then, next, last, finally, begin, etc.) to talk about the errands. Ex. ‘First we will go to the Post Office, and then we will go to the bank. Finally, we will stop at the grocery store.’ ▪ Ask questions: who, what, when, why, where, how. Ex. What did you do at the party? Who was there? When did they open gifts? How did he like the gift you gave? Where did the mom put the cake? What was your favorite thing to do at the party? Why was the party fun? ▪ Expand the ‘who, what, where, when, why, how’ questions to a book you are reading with your child. Ex. “Who is the main character?” “What is the book mostly about?” “When/where did the story take place?” etc. ▪ When reading to your child, point out the title and author. Look at the cover and ask “what do you think will happen in this book” or “what do you think the book will be about”. Why do you think that? ▪ Stop when reading to ask, “what has happened so far” and “what do you think will happen next”. Talk about unfamiliar words. ▪ After reading, help your child retell the story - beginning, middle, end. ▪ Help your child make connections to life by asking ‘is there anything in the book/story that reminds you of something that you have seen or done?’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue and expand on kindergarten activities. ▪ Talk about fictional movies and books your child has read or viewed. Ex. Who was the main character? What problem did he/she have? How was the problem solved? Where/when did the story take place? Why did _____ happen? ▪ Talk about informational movies and books your child has read or viewed. Ex. What was the movie/book mainly about? What facts did you learn about _____? How does this relate to our lives? ▪ When reading informational texts, be sure to look at the graphics and captions. Notice all of the print on the page. Is any print in bold type? Why? Are there sections in the text? How are they organized? ▪ Help your child create a book about something he/she is interested in. Ex. If he/she is interested in monkeys, read books about monkeys. Your child can write a fact on a page of his/her book and illustrate it. He/she can cut out pictures of monkeys, and write descriptions of the pictures. When complete, allow your child to share the book with a family member or friend. ▪ When reading a fictional text, ask questions about character traits. Ex. Which character did you think was kind? What in the story made you think that? (You will have to model this.) ▪ Encourage deeper thinking by asking, “If the story kept going, what do you think would happen next?”

Resources:

Florida Center for Reading Research - <http://www.fcrr.org/curriculum/curriculumForParents.shtm>: Activities and support for helping your child with reading

Department of Education - <https://www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml>: Ways to help your child with reading

11 Ways Parents Can Help Their Child Learn to Read - <http://www.readingrockets.org/blogs/shanahan-literacy/11-ways-parents-can-help-their-children-read>

Helping Struggling Readers - <http://www.readingrockets.org/helping>

Helping Your Child Understand - <https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/partnering-with-childs-school/instructional-strategies/6-tips-for-helping-your-child-improve-reading-comprehension#slide-1>