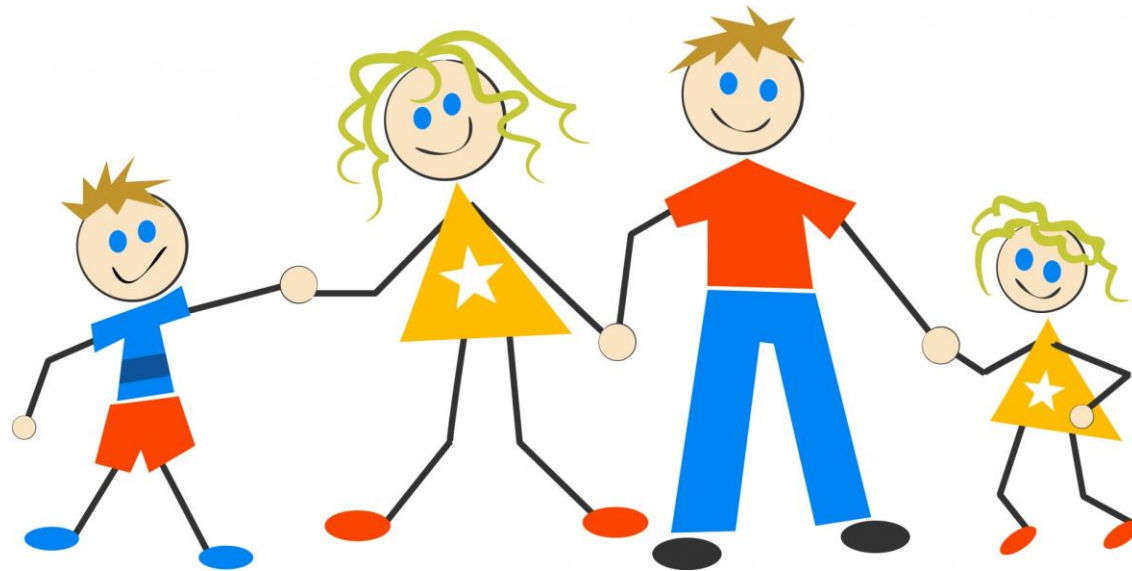


Parent Toolkit



Language and Literacy Strategies
Third and Fourth Grades

Parent Toolkit

Language and Literacy Strategies Third and Fourth Grades

Created by:

Ava R-I Dyslexia Task Force Committee
2018

The development of literacy is much more than simply learning to read. It also includes listening and understanding, speaking and communication, connecting sounds to language, using writing and storytelling, and representing ideas through art and pretend play, singing and rhyming. There is so much you as a parent can do, without it involving too much time.

The goal of this toolkit is to provide you with simple activity ideas, book lists, warning signs of potential red flags, and provide suggestions to help you meet the educational needs of your child.

Listening and understanding	Speaking	Literacy and Reading	Writing
Talk to your child.	Pretend play.	Read books with your child.	Provide paper, pencils, crayons daily.
Sing songs together.	Talk with your child about his/her difficulties.	Discuss who, what, when, where, why of books.	Change endings of stories.
Learning is challenging and sometimes painful. Your child needs laughter in his/her life. Laugh together!	Let your child be an “expert” at something that is not school-related (cooking, building, sewing, art).	Predictions of stories.	Write and mail letters and cards.
Play “I Spy” while driving.	Talk about beginning, middle end of stories.	Go to public library with your child.	Sidewalk chalk for outdoor writing.
Play board games.	Create stories.	Play letter/word bingo.	Develop a pen pal.
Work puzzles together.	Sentence completion games.	Discuss books with your child.	Have child practice writing/typing on electronics.
Word games: make new words by substituting the first letter of each word.	Have child retell story sequence.	Purchase a reader guide (about \$1) for your child to follow sentences easily.	Provide activities to strengthen muscles in child’s fingers.
Word sorting: ask child to sort word cards by beginning or ending letter.	Ask child lots of questions, especially open-ended.	Read fiction and non-fiction with your child.	Have child summarize what he/she reads.

Book Suggestions

The public library has a wonderful selection of books for young children! Allowing your child to have his/her own library card is a wonderful way to encourage interest in books and develop strong reading skills. Here is a brief list of **just a few** quality to books for third and fourth grade children:

Ramona (series by Beverly Cleary)

Horrible Harry (series by Susie Kline)

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan

How to Be Cool In the Third Grade by Betsy Duffy

The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary

Chronicles of Narnia (series by C.S. Lewis)

One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Because of Winn Dixie by Lincoln Peirce

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Middle School (series by James Patterson)

Theodore Boone by John Grisham

Books authored by Judy Blume

The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds

Booked by Kwame Alexander

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly

Holes by Louis Sachar

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

Books by Gary Paulsen

It is very important to understand that from kindergarten through about second grade, children are **learning to read!** Beginning in about third grade, children should be **reading to learn!**

Potential Signs and Characteristics of a Problem:

Second and Third Grade Indicators

- Mispronunciation of long, unfamiliar, or complicated words
- Frequently misreads common words even after practice
- Speech that is not fluent
- No strategies for word attack, makes wild guesses at words
- Use of imprecise language
- Loses place and skips over words while reading
- Poor spelling
- Inability to read small function words
- Fear of reading out loud
- Oral reading that lacks expression
- Does not enjoy reading
- Lowered self-esteem

Fourth through Sixth Grade Indicators:

- Difficulty reading lists
- Poor spelling
- Poor handwriting
- Poor written expression
- Avoidance of reading
- Weak reading comprehension compared to listening comprehension
- Difficulty completing homework
- Trouble with reading mathematics word problems
- Poor performance on multiple choice tests
- Reading that is very slow and tiring
- Does not seem to enjoy reading
- Lowered self-esteem
- May present as behavior problem

Advocating for Your Child

You are your child's first and most important teacher! No one knows your child better than you do. Being an advocate means giving a voice to your child's needs and empowering him/her to accomplish goals. It means helping your child to obtain the resources to meet those needs. Dyslexia in no way limits what your child can accomplish or what he or she may become as an adult. They can become doctors, lawyers, scientists, artists, entertainers, athletes and anything else they may dream.

If your child's teacher mentions noticing a potential red flag, listen to her. This is not a reflection of your child's intelligence or worth. But, the earlier the concerns are addressed, the less likely it is that your child could fall behind and become frustrated with school. Ask what you can do at home to support your child's learning.

If you suspect that your child may have reading difficulties, speak up! Be specific about weaknesses you notice at home and keep track. **Do not wait** for annual parent-teacher conferences to say something. Reach out and express what your concerns are and ask your child's teacher to begin noticing. Your elementary principal is another great resource for help and support. Recognize

your role as the most important member of your child's educational team. **Stand up. Be heard. Be an advocate. Never give up on your child!**

Helpful Websites

www.understood.org

www.readingrockets.org

www.bookshare.org

www.getreadytoread.org

www.scholastic.com

www.pbs.org

www.inspiration.com

www.readwritethink.org

www.getreadytoread.org