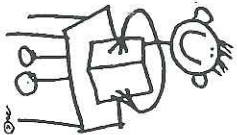


A Profile of Readers in Grades 3-5



Readers in grades 3-5 are no longer learning to read,

they are reading to learn. Most intermediate readers are competent decoders and are now ready to hone their reading comprehension skills, explore a variety of genres, and expand their vocabularies. Written text is the foundation of much of the curriculum materials in the upper-elementary grades. The introduction of textbooks requires students to be more competent readers of nonfiction text and to apply strategies such as analyzing and synthesizing.

The Importance of Supporting At Home Independent Reading

Research shows that reading, like any skill, improves with practice. Independent reading with self-selected texts not only provides this necessary practice, it also empowers students by providing them with choice. When students read independently they build



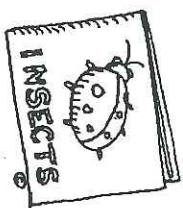
fluency, increase their vocabulary, and build background knowledge.

What Parents Can Do At Home To Support...

TEXT COMPREHENSION

- Be curious about the books your child is reading. Ask about the characters, places, and events that took place. Inquire about what new pieces of information your child has acquired from the book.
- Encourage your child to make connections to what he/she is reading. These could be connections to your child's own experiences, connections to other books or authors, or connections to the real world.
- Read books and other texts aloud with your child. Share the thoughts and questions you have about the text while you read. Rich conversations are sure to emerge. You can take turns reading each page or each chapter.

GENRE EXPLORATION



- Model that you read text for a variety of purposes. Newspapers, magazines, mystery novels, cookbooks, and even driving directions have a predictable format. Point this out to your child.
- Regularly visit libraries and bookstores. Encourage your child to browse! Suggest both fiction and nonfiction books that connect to your child's interests and experiences.

VOCABULARY ACQUISITION

- Encourage your child to choose high-interest text that is rich in new vocabulary. Talk about several of the words in the text and help your child connect these words to their own experiences.
- Make an effort to use new and different words in your family conversations.
- Play word games together. The dinner table or car rides are great opportunities to play around with language. Crossword puzzles are also a fantastic challenge for children.
- Take field trips. New experiences are filled with new vocabulary!

The Value Of Reading Aloud

Children in grades 3-5 are not too old to be read to! In school, read aloud is often a favorite time of the day. Reading and discussing books aloud models fluency and comprehension. It is also a great strategy for sparking a child's interest in a new book, series, author, or genre. Reading aloud is a great opportunity to share your love of reading while spending valuable time with your child. For books suggestions and further information about the value of reading aloud check out Jim Trelease's *Read Aloud Handbook*.

HOW TO create a Literacy-Rich Home Environment

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

Have a wide variety of books, magazines, and newspapers available and visible in your home. Include both fiction and nonfiction, as well as a variety of genres. Bring your child with you to the library or bookstore to bolster your home collection.

PROVIDE A VARIETY OF WRITING MATERIALS

Provide an assortment of paper and notebooks, as well as a variety of writing instruments—pens, pencils, markers, and highlighters. Allow your child to have supervised times to use a home computer for word processing and literacy-themed software programs.

PLAY GAMES

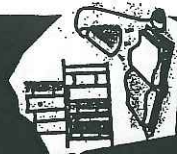
A number of popular games, such as *Boggle*, *Scrabble*, and *Taboo*, are great for promoting literacy development. Other games, like *Guess Who* and *Clue*, promote problem-solving skills that can later help with reading comprehension. These games are great fun for the whole family to play together!

TURN OFF THE TV

Limit your child's screen time. Set aside a time every day that is free of television, video games, and computer. This is a perfect time for the entire family to enjoy a book, magazine, or newspaper of their choosing.

BE A ROLE MODEL

Pick up a book and demonstrate your love of reading! Your child will be more likely to become a competent reader and writer when they see you reading and writing in your everyday life.



HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Your child's classroom teacher is an invaluable resource. Communicate regularly about your child's reading habits, interests, and struggles. Ask questions about the reading curriculum in the classroom. Working together you can ensure that your child will have positive literacy experiences.

Resources used to make this Brochure

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The expertise of the literacy specialists and teachers at Chickering School in Dover, Miller School in Holliston, Memorial Spaulding School in Newton, and Mystic Valley Regional Charter School in Malden.

K. Barrett, M. DeRusha, K. Martin, H. Wassail

Lesley University

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A Parent's Guide to Supporting Independent Reading at Home



Grades 3-5