

March Kindergarten Newsletter

Conferences

Kindergarten conferences will be held Thursday, March 12 and Monday, March 16. We look forward to seeing you to talk about your child's progress so far this year.

Word Wall Words

mom, dad, a, I, see, saw, the, love, my, like, dog, because, cat, yes, no, at, we, me, to, can, play, and, with, go, look, is, it, here, zoo, in, on, for, you, have, said, she, he, are, run

Because these words will be assessed, we would appreciate you practicing these words at home with your child so he/she can read them more rapidly. Flashcard practice is a quick way to rehearse these words successfully, so the attached sheet is being sent home for your use in this practice.

Word Family Work

-at, -it, -an, -ig, -ot To help your child begin blending sounds together into words, use these "word family" endings, along with a beginning consonant, to build words. An example of this would be to put a "b" sound in front of the ending sound "at" to form the word "bat". Explain to your child that you are going to say a word that has three sounds, such as "bat", and you would like them to write down the sounds and put them together to make the word. This is an assessed skill for third quarter in kindergarten.

Comprehension Strategies

We have been working on beginning comprehension strategies that all good readers use when reading. Summarizing is the focus for this theme and the children have been learning to make lists in their heads as they listen to stories. These lists are about characters, problems, solutions, and important events at the beginning, middle and end of a story. While reading aloud we discuss these aspects at various points in the story. Using this strategy when you read at home with your child will help to strengthen this strategy. Predicting what will happen next in a story has been a past focus, but one that needs to be revisited often for young readers to become successful at using it. We have the children predict before reading a book to get them thinking about what will be read. We stop during the book to have them predict what they think will happen next. When they've predicted something that may not have happened in the story, we tell them that it's good to change predictions because good readers have to do that at times to understand the story better. These are both strategies that the children can use with adult support. Any time you can reinforce these strategies at home, you are helping to strengthen your child's reading comprehension.

Math Skills

Our skill focus for this quarter will be on measurement. This skill includes money, time, and length. Please review with your children coins and their value (penny, nickel, and dime), time to the hour and half-hour, and measuring with a ruler to understand the terms "shorter" and "longer". Please work on writing numbers to twenty and randomly having your child identify those numbers. The "teen" numbers continue to be a tricky concept for kindergarten students to master, so extra review at home will help when we do these assessments with your child.

One Minute Timed Alphabet Identification

Thank you to all of our families who have been reading the alphabet charts with your children every night and returning the graphs to school the following week. This has been a wonderful way to increase the children's confidence in reading and writing by being able to recall letters so quickly. This is one way to create successful readers and writers now and in the future!