

### Parents: Your role is vital to the continued growth and expansion of your child’s literacy skills.

In the all important, formative of years of reading skill building, parents hold the key to permanent reading skills as a foundation for learning. The classroom is a great place to introduce and practice the necessary skills. In order for the students to climb the reading ladder, outside practice in the most safe and nurturing environment is essential, that place is the home.

There are simple letter and sound recognition exercises that can be used to help your child expand their phonemic awareness. While reading with your child, pick out two sound words that you model annunciation of the words sounds, and then ask your child to annunciate words of their choosing. For phonics instruction, sound and word association and awareness are key to building reading skill.

## Phonics/Phonemic Awareness

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* Collaboration

Reading

We have looked at phonemic awareness and phonics practice. The other essential elements to reading proficiency are, vocabulary, comprehension and fluency. In order for reading to become a synthesis, predicting and metacognitive endeavor, each area of reading prowess needs to be illuminated. Parents, you can assist greatly with guidance from your child’s teacher with these three areas. Modeling what reading fluency looks, and sounds like, asking questions of the text, interjecting vocabulary definition to enhance comprehension.

*The most important thing parents can do is monitor reading growth and help assess their child’s efficiency in the five major areas. There are simple informal strategies that can help the process. Observational guided reading for new words and text. By inquiring with your child and actively listening to them read and comprehend the material, you can go along way in helping their teacher customize learning for your child.*

# “You can help with assessment”

The “Big 3”

There are formal, standardized, and summative assessments that will occur in your child’s educational journey. By working collaboratively with faculty and administration, you can impact your child’s literacy journey in a very meaningful way. With all of the formal assessment that occurs, your child needs a fun and nurturing atmosphere to continue to make reading a vital part of their lives. Formal assessments can become stressful, at home, your child should feel safe, and be able to let their imagination run wild with the books they read. They can feel good about not being on a clock or being evaluated. Reading is an activity that can last a lifetime, and be an outlet from the rigors of demanding living. Parents, you can be the example of how meaningful reading is, and assist your child’s school, at the same time, providing a stimulating, no performance atmosphere for your child.