

# K-1 HOME SUPPORT - INTRODUCTION

Dear Family:

When children become strong readers in the early grades, they are more likely to become better learners throughout their school years and beyond. Learning to read is important work for children, and your child will be taught some important basic skills in reading and writing this year. However, **your support at home** is needed for your child's success!

What can you do to help?

- **Talk often** and use language in conversation. For example, encourage your child to "wonder". Say things like, "I wonder why ...?"
- **Listen and respond** to help your child expand on his or her vocabulary. When your child says, "He's funny," you could respond, "Yes, he's funny. Why do you think he is funny?"
- **Ask open-ended questions.** Open-ended questions have more than one response and often times begin with, "What are you doing with ...?", or "Why do you think ...?" Rephrasing your child's response helps to further model language and develop vocabulary.
- **Limit the amount of TV.** When you do watch TV together, talk about it afterwards. Ask questions about the show, the characters and events.
- **Provide opportunities for your child to engage in imaginative play.** Simple things around the house can turn into wonderful pretend play. Old clothes, boxes, pots and pans, can become pretend play. While playing, talk through your actions.
- **Read, Read, Read.** It cannot be overstated the importance of reading with your child.

Research indicates that a systematic and explicit approach to teaching phonics is the most effective for children. As your child learns early reading and writing skills this year, he or she will be coming home from school talking about "tapping out sounds", or bringing home the "Writing Grid" paper (special paper used with pictures that indicate the names of the lines: sky line, plane line, grass line and worm line).

To help support you support your child this year, we have included concepts and activities for your use at home. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Thank you.