**How parents can help their second & third graders learn to read**

**Second & Third Graders Learn to Read**

**Shining Stars**

**Checklist for Parents of Second & Third Graders**

Three skills actually develop during grades two and three. Talk with your child's teacher if you have questions.

**Second Grade**

- My child knows how to use the rules of phonics to help him figure out unfamiliar words.
- My child reads many sight words and regularly spelled one- and two-syllable words.
- My child understands second grade fiction and nonfiction, and compares and connects information from different sources.
- My child can write for specific purposes and answer questions, and explores topics of interest to her.
- My child answers "how," "why," and "what" questions, and makes inferences, main ideas, and details after reading.
- My child compares information from diagrams, graphs, and charts.
- My child takes part in creative responses to stories, such as dramatizations and oral presentations.
- My child pays attention to how words are spelled and correctly spells words he has studied.
- My child spells a word the way it sounds if she doesn't know its spelling.
- My child writes for many different purposes and writes different types of compositions (for example, stories, reports, and letters).
- My child chooses thoughtful ideas about what to include in his writing.
- My child takes part in writing conferences, revises with others when she needs to, and improves her mechanics of writing (spelling, capitalization, and punctuation) in her final versions.
- My child learns new words that come from school and at home.
- My child uses clues from the context and her knowledge of word parts (roots, prefixes, suffixes) to figure out what words mean.
- My child is increasing his vocabulary with synonyms and antonyms.
- My child uses part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb) correctly.
- My child learns new words through independent reading.

**Third Grade**

- My child knows how to use the rules of phonics to help him figure out unfamiliar words.
- My child reads many sight words and regularly spelled one- and two-syllable words.
- My child understands third grade fiction and nonfiction, and compares and connects information from different sources.
- My child can write for specific purposes and answer questions, and explores topics of interest to her.
- My child answers "how," "why," and "what" questions, and makes inferences, main ideas, and details after reading.
- My child compares information from diagrams, graphs, and charts.
- My child takes part in creative responses to stories, such as dramatizations and oral presentations.
- My child pays attention to how words are spelled and correctly spells words he has studied.
- My child spells a word the way it sounds if she doesn't know its spelling.
- My child writes for many different purposes and writes different types of compositions (for example, stories, reports, and letters).
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- My child learns new words that come from school and at home.
- My child uses clues from the context and her knowledge of word parts (roots, prefixes, suffixes) to figure out what words mean.
- My child is increasing his vocabulary with synonyms and antonyms.
- My child uses part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb) correctly.
- My child learns new words through independent reading.
My child can explain the major points in fiction and non-fiction books.

My child can identify and discuss words or phrases she does not understand.

My child uses parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) correctly.

My child builds her vocabulary through synonyms and antonyms.

My child develops his vocabulary and knowledge through independent reading.

My child is starting to use metaphors and other literary forms in his writing.

My child uses context to gain meaning from what she reads.

My child uses information he has gathered and his own reasoning to make a point helpfully to their writing.

My child gathers information from a variety of sources, including books, articles, and computers, and uses it in his writing.

My child reads third grade level texts (stories, non-fiction, magazine articles, computer games) helpfully to their writing.

My child reads chapter books independently.

My child uses what he knows of phonics and word parts (prefixes, roots, suffixes) to sound out unfamiliar words.

My child uses parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) correctly.

My child builds his vocabulary through synonyms and antonyms.

My child is starting to use metaphors and other literary forms in his writing.

My child uses context to gain meaning from what he reads.

My child gathers information from a variety of sources, including books, articles, and computers, and uses it in his writing.

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