



LITERACY

WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO



Throughout the school year, 4th grade students will spend the most time working on the following topics. They should understand them well by the end of the year.

Reading and writing skills:

- Writing complete sentences and paragraphs about what they are learning, with mostly correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Reading 4th grade level texts smoothly and with expression, at a **fluency** rate of around 90-140 words per minute.

Learning about the world through text:

- Asking and answering questions about stories and texts read independently. Using specific evidence to describe, to explain how ideas are connected, and to support inferences about the text.
- Figuring out the meaning of unknown words in text by using context or tools like dictionaries and glossaries. Determining or clarifying the meaning of unknown words, words with multiple meanings, **synonyms**, **antonyms**, or **figurative language** in context.
- Linking opinions and reasons or ideas within categories using words and phrases to connect ideas (for example, “for instance,” “in order to,” “in addition,” “for example,” “also”).
- Showing something new they have learned from a text or about a topic. This can be in any form: speaking and conversation, illustrations, letters, journals, stories, posters, or essays.
- Writing about what happened or information learned from the text. Children should include a title, an introductory sentence or section, well-developed examples, and a conclusion sentence or section. Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation should be mostly accurate.



EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

- Turn on the closed captioning while watching TV to allow your child to read along with the dialogue.
- Encourage your child each day to choose a book they want to read on their own. Reading lots of books over time is more important than the type of text. Let your child pick based on their interests and what makes them excited to read.
- Have “book talk” conversations. Ask your child to share the important ideas in their own words and show you what part of the text provided this information.
- Pick a topic to learn about together. Read books, look online, do things together. You can help your child build knowledge and develop a love of learning.
- Encourage your child to use writing regularly in the real world. This can include authentic writing (grocery lists, notes, chore lists, etc.) as well as writing in a journal, book response notebook, or other creative writing opportunities.