



Reading and the Primary Grades

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, Department of Elementary Education

A Successful Start in School



A growing body of research indicates that students who struggle to become successful readers by third grade will have a more difficult time in school than their peers who *read fluently*.

“Fluent” reading happens when a child can read quickly and accurately at a level appropriate for their age or grade. Fluent reading is a bridge to comprehension. When a child isn’t stuck in the process of figuring out every single word, he or she can think about the meaning

and ideas behind the words being read. This allows students to *comprehend and learn* from what they are reading while also putting together new ideas!

Teachers in the KPBSD use a variety of measures to keep track of how students are progressing in their reading skills. A pre-reading or reading fluency test, commonly called a TEL or R-CBM is given at least three times a year. Children who struggle to achieve average scores on these tests may be re-

ferred to the school’s intervention team for extra reading help.

Ask your child’s teacher when your child will be assessed with the TEL or R-CBM, or what his or her scores were. Below average scores may indicate a need for extra help, while above average scores may indicate a need for enrichment or acceleration. Asking how your child scored will start a conversation about whether your child is on track to learn to read to succeed!

Resources for Reluctant Readers

KPBSD schools have a variety of resources available to help students who are struggling to become fluent readers. In addition to the support of Title I teachers at eligible schools, the District also provides Interventionists who are highly instrumental in ensuring students receive whatever type of support is needed. If you are concerned about your child’s progress:

- Contact your child’s classroom teacher and

ask if meeting with the school’s Intervention Team could be helpful.

- Ask for ideas of specific things you can do at home to reinforce what is being taught in school.
- Find out if your child is demonstrating delays in other areas.
- Ask what interventions are available to help your child.
- If your child is being

considered for retention, monthly meetings need to be held with you involved to monitor his or her progress. During these meetings, your child’s progress will be reviewed and the next steps to help your child succeed will be discussed.

- YOU are an important part of your child’s success. Please partner with your school!

Websites for Adults to Explore

- *Early Literacy Games and Tips for Parents* at <http://getreadytoread.org/>
- *Resources for Parents to Use* <http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/>
- *Activities and Links to Cool Literacy Stuff* <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/>
- *Apps for Reading Comprehension* http://www.readingrockets.org/teaching/reading101/comprehension/literacyapps_comprehension/
- *What to do if Your Child Struggles* <http://www.readingrockets.org/helping/>
- *Information About Learning Disabilities* <http://www.ldonline.org/parents>



Links for Kids

- *Ages 3-7* <http://pbskids.org/>
- *Ages 4-9* <http://pbskids.org/gol/index.html>
- *Ages 5-8* <http://www.starfall.com/>
- *Ages 8-11* <http://www.funbrain.com/brain/ReadingBrain/ReadingBrain.html>
- *Reading Games* <http://pbskids.org/games/reading.html>
- *All Levels* <http://www.earobics.com/gamegoo/gooy.html>