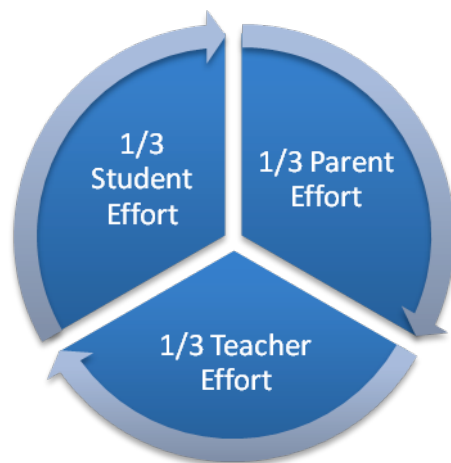


Bethke Elementary



First Grade Handbook



Approach to Reading Instruction

- Lots and lots of reading for all sorts of purposes.
- Modeling of reading and writing in many different forms.
- Phonics Instruction.
- Reading strategies to use when figuring out unknown words.
- Instruction that is appropriate for each child's individual needs.
- Total acceptance of the child and their attempts at reading.



Ways to Help Emergent Readers at Home

1. READ, READ, READ.
2. Be a reading model – If a child sees you reading they will get the message that reading is a valuable and pleasurable experience.
3. Read Aloud to Your Child
 - Language learning consists of input and output. Reading aloud to children is the input. The output is retrieving and using the language learned from listening to the story.
 - After reading retell the story. Talk about parts of the story that your child liked.
 - If your child wants to hear the story again, re-read it.

Tips for Helping Your Child Read

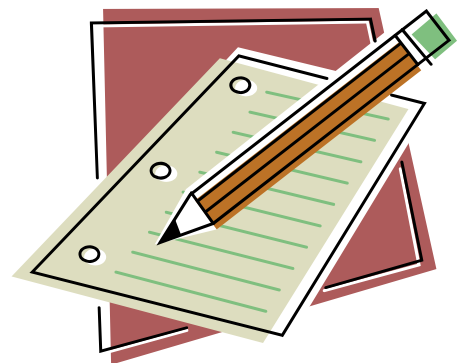
- Picture walk through the story before reading the book. Continue to use picture clues as you read.
- Point to the beginning of each word while reading. This encourages voice/print match.
- Occasionally have your child find a specific word on a page after s/he has read the passage. Be sure to ask, “How did you know that was _____?”
- Talk about the meaning of the story.
- If an error is made ask, “Does that word choice make sense or is there a better choice?” Then check to see if the new word choice matched the letters/sounds.
- Work on fluency (smoothness of voice) and expression. Pay attention to punctuation clues (pausing at commas, periods, etc.)
- Work on sight words. Sight words are an important component in reading. They are words that beginning readers should instantly recognize rather than sounding out.

Writing

In first grade writing is very exciting! You will see an amazing amount of growth in this area in the coming year. We will write whole group and individually frequently about a variety of topics. By the end of the year most students will be using the proper combination of uppercase and lowercase letters and punctuation. During the writing process I will conference with each child continuously to ensure that they are working on skills that I feel are appropriate to their particular level. I try to allow lots of time for students to share their writing with the class and their Book Buddy (fourth grade) which promotes a great deal of pride and ownership in their writing.

Tips for Helping Emergent Writers at Home

- Be Patient, involved and joyous with early efforts at writing.
- Praise writing behavior.
- Provide lots of writing materials.
- Read and write many things with your child.
- Emphasize the meaning of their writing instead of looking for perfect spelling.
- Buy word games, puzzles, books and magazine subscriptions.
- Let your child choose what to write about.
- Encourage book making. Write down what your child says, or write a book together.



How to Print Letters

A a B b C c D d

E e F f G g H h I i

J j K k L l M m N n

O o P p Q q R r

S s T t U u V v

W w X x Y y Z z

Suggested Pencil Grip and Posture



Tripod Grip

1 - Tall Finger (side)
2 - Thumb (pad)
3 - Pointing Finger (tip)
All fingers are slightly bent.

Don't do this!

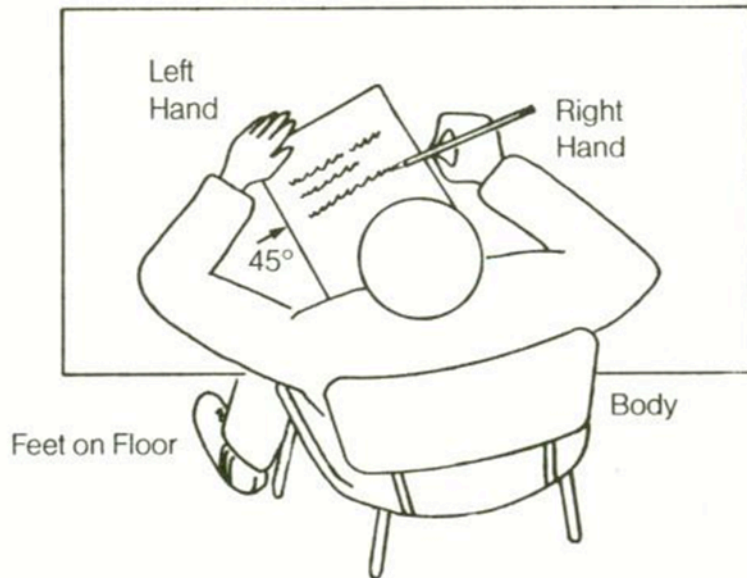
Pressure on the pointing finger.

All fingers pulled into a fist.

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Figure 9-14

Paper Position and Correct Posture for Handwriting



At Home Activities

1. Read, Read, Read.
2. Read to a favorite stuffed animal.
3. Pick a topic like bears and read all about it.
4. Visit the library on a regular basis.
5. Find new poems and add them to your Fluency Notebook.
6. Read a chapter book to your child.
7. After reading a book do one of these activities:
 - Make a book cover about your favorite part.
 - Make a poster about the story or a character.
 - Make a paper bag puppet of your favorite character and present a puppet show.
8. Find words in a magazine or newspaper, cut them out, and put them in ABC order.
9. Read the poems in your Fluency Notebook.
10. Read environmental print – cereal boxes, signs, etc.

Writing Activities

1. When going on a trip, make a trip diary.
2. Use a camera, and write about your pictures.
3. Draw a cartoon and add the text.
4. Have your child help you create lists – grocery, friends, etc.
5. Write letters or notes to family members or friends.
6. Send postcards to a family member in another town.
7. Develop a puppet show.
8. Write stories in a notebook like you do at school.
9. Find pictures in magazine and write a story about them.

10. Develop a family newspaper.
11. Write a new version of your favorite book.

Math

1. Practice counting to 100 by 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's.
2. Graphing – Open a bag of M&M's, count the various colors and graph them. This can be done with house colors on the block, trucks, dolls and other toys.
3. Use graph paper to develop symmetrical designs.
4. Math facts – addition and subtraction to 10.
5. Money – Use real money to see how many ways you can make a certain value.
6. Develop word problems – I had 10 M&M's and I ate three of them. How many M&M's do I have left?
7. Measure a variety of objects using a ruler.
8. Cook and Bake – Help Mom and Dad cook or bake. Check out the measuring cups and spoons for fractions.
9. Time – hour and half hour.
10. Use measuring cups with rice or water to make equivalents ($\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$)
11. Mental Math – $2 + 2 + 5 - 3$

Social Studies

1. Use a map on a trip.
2. Use a highlighter and highlight your trip on a map.
3. Research how children in another country live –
 - What are their favorite foods?
 - Do they have any special customs?
 - What does their native dress look like?

4. Make a map of your neighborhood or yard.
Label your neighbor's home or the things in your yard.
5. Explore your city.

Science

1. Use the library and observe an animal in nature.
Research the animal or insect, record your information,
and include some illustrations.
2. Develop a new hobby like bird watching.
3. Look for patterns in nature.
4. Visit the Museum of Nature and Science in
Denver.

Fun Activities

1. Visit the zoo. Have your child read the map, and
signs. After your visit have your child tell you what they
have learned.
2. Weave pot holders.
3. Easy origami.
4. Easy models.
5. Check Michael's and other local craft stores for
possible ideas and classes.
6. Build with popsicle sticks.
7. Use an ink pad with stamps, or make stamps
from carrots or potatoes.
8. Make and use play dough.
9. Get lots of construction paper, lots of odds and
ends and let your child create!

