

# Principal Chat: Supporting Literacy at Home

Mr. Alston, Unity Elementary School Principal



**Georgia students in  
grades 3rd-8th  
reading BELOW grade  
level.**

According to the Georgia  
Department of Education's End  
of Grade Assessment data.

**63%**

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# Where Do Our Students Stand with Reading?

At the end of the  
2023-2024 school  
year.



| Grade   | Overall Grade-Level Placement |           |                   |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
|         | On or Above                   | One Below | Two or More Below |
| Grade K | 91%                           | 9%        | 0%                |
| Grade 1 | 46%                           | 54%       | 0%                |
| Grade 2 | 46%                           | 36%       | 19%               |
| Grade 3 | 36%                           | 32%       | 32%               |
| Grade 4 | 19%                           | 37%       | 44%               |
| Grade 5 | 33%                           | 28%       | 40%               |

# How are we addressing the issue at school?

- EVERY certified educator in our school is participating in intense, on-going training focused on literacy and the “Science of Reading.”
- We have 2 full time interventionists and 3 part time interventionists who are working with students daily who fall in the bottom 30th percentile.
- Dedicated independent reading time EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY.

# How are we addressing the issue at school?

- Screening every student in grades K-3rd grade for signs of dyslexia and/or reading difficulty.
- Heavily monitoring student growth in reading through consistent assessments and progress monitoring.
- Educating and supporting parents on how to promote literacy at home.

# Simple View of Reading

**Decoding + Language Comprehension**

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**Reading Comprehension**



**How can you support at  
home?**

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# Tip #1: Create a Literacy Rich Environment



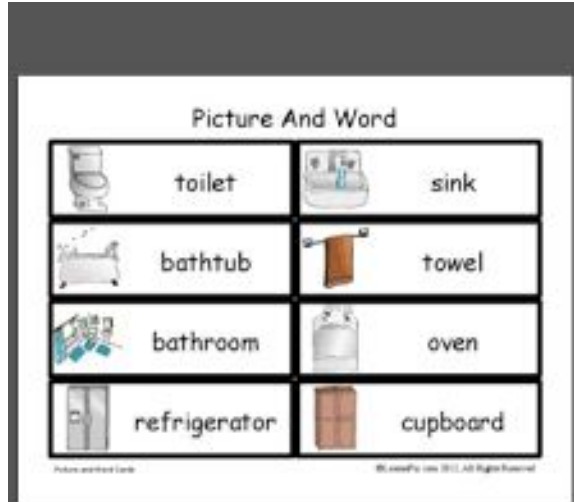


Quiet, cozy area just for reading and writing.



Keep books, magazines, and writing materials easily accessible to kids.

Label household items and talk about signs, labels, and menus.



# Tip #2: Build Reading Routines



**Reading aloud with your child builds vocabulary and comprehension.**

**Let them choose to read independently or with family.**

**Don't be afraid to create silly voices for characters or do fun gestures when reading.**

**Ask them questions while you read.**

**“What do you think will happen next?”**

**“Why was Brittany sad when her friends laughed?”**

**Help kids make connections to what they're reading.**

**Let kids retell story in their own words after reading a book.**

**Aim for 15-20 minutes of reading each day.**

# Tip #3: Engage in Writing at Home



**Encourage journaling or writing letters to family and friends.**



**Use writing prompts or help them make up their own stories.**

**Have fun writing tools accessible. Colored pencils, crayons, markers, stickers, colored paper, etc.**



**Write grocery lists, letters, or notes and involve your child in the process.**

# Tip #4: Literacy Apps





Ask your child's teacher for login information or purchase your own subscription.



Completely free. Ask your child's teacher for their login or setup a home account.



Ask your child's teacher for login information or purchase your own subscription.



School has purchased. Ask your child's teacher for their login information.

## Parent To Do List:

- ❑ Schedule a time each day for 10-15 minutes of reading.
- ❑ Take a trip to the bookstore or library once a month.
- ❑ Have your child write a letter to a relative once a week.
- ❑ Encourage your child to journal at least once week.
- ❑ Limit screen time and encourage conversations.



**Questions?**