Dear BLS Parent(s):

Reading and writing may be the hardest thing your child will learn to do.

Learning to write is a complex mental and physical process. The writer must be able to give voice to complex ideas, and to transcribe those ideas neatly in organized sentences and paragraphs.

Children also need a great deal of help and practice to learn the skill of reading. As partners in education, parents can do many things to support and encourage their children’s success in learning.

Here are a few ideas for parents to try at home. We hope these suggestions help your children become better life-long learners.

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**BECAUSE THE SITUATION** in every home is different, we can not say when to try these ideas out in your home. Every parent and child will work out ways to learn to read and write together. But we do know that the suggestions here work with many parents and children. They may work in your home, too.

Reading and writing skills develop over many years. Some children seem to develop early; others later. At times children even seem to go backwards. Nevertheless, your help as a parent is vital. With your efforts, your child will certainly progress.

Take time to get acquainted with your child’s teacher. Find out what they teacher is trying to teach and how you can support those efforts. A sound education for your child depends on partnership between home and school.



**Helping Your Child**

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**Find Success and Become a Better Student**

**Talk With Your Child**

**SHARE** experiences, favorite stories and feelings.

**LISTEN** to your child. A child needs to believe his or her ideas, work and feelings are important.

**ENCOURAGE** creativity. Make up games, projects & stories. Children enjoy discovering new things and sharing them with others.

**Read With Your Child**

**READ** to your child regardless of age or grade during the elementary years.

**LISTEN** to your child read to you. Talk and ask questions about books the child reads at home and at school.

**MODEL** reading. Let you child see you reading the mail, a newspaper, magazines and books.

**Make A Study Place**

**FURNISH** a workplace for reading and studying with ample lighting, a desk or just a cleared-off kitchen table.

**PROVIDE** a quiet time each day for study, writing and reading. Set limited hours for TV viewing, video games and social media.

**SUPPLY** your child with the proper materials for doing their school work while at home. Supply lists are available at school, on our website or from the classroom teacher.

**Set An Example**

**SHARE** your own experiences with school in a positive light. Let your child see you doing your “work” at home.

**ENCOURAGE** letter writing by having your child write letters and invitations to family, friends and teachers. Have children write “thank you” notes for gifts that they receive.

**DISCUSS** the kinds of or writing that you do on the job. Talk about the things that you do at work. Children need to know that an education is important in the world of work that is in our community today.

**Show Support Of Their Education**

**ASK** to see your child’s work in school. Ask “What did you do today in school?” See that it is completed on time.

**SPEAK** highly of the importance of an education and also of the teachers and staff who work with the child.

**BE INVOLVED** in the life of the school. Parents can volunteer at events and on field trips. Be a member of **PTL**.

**CHECK** student’s grades with the student on a regular basis by looking on the **Sycamore** system or by contacting teachers. Don’t wait until the end of the grading period.