

PARENT Information



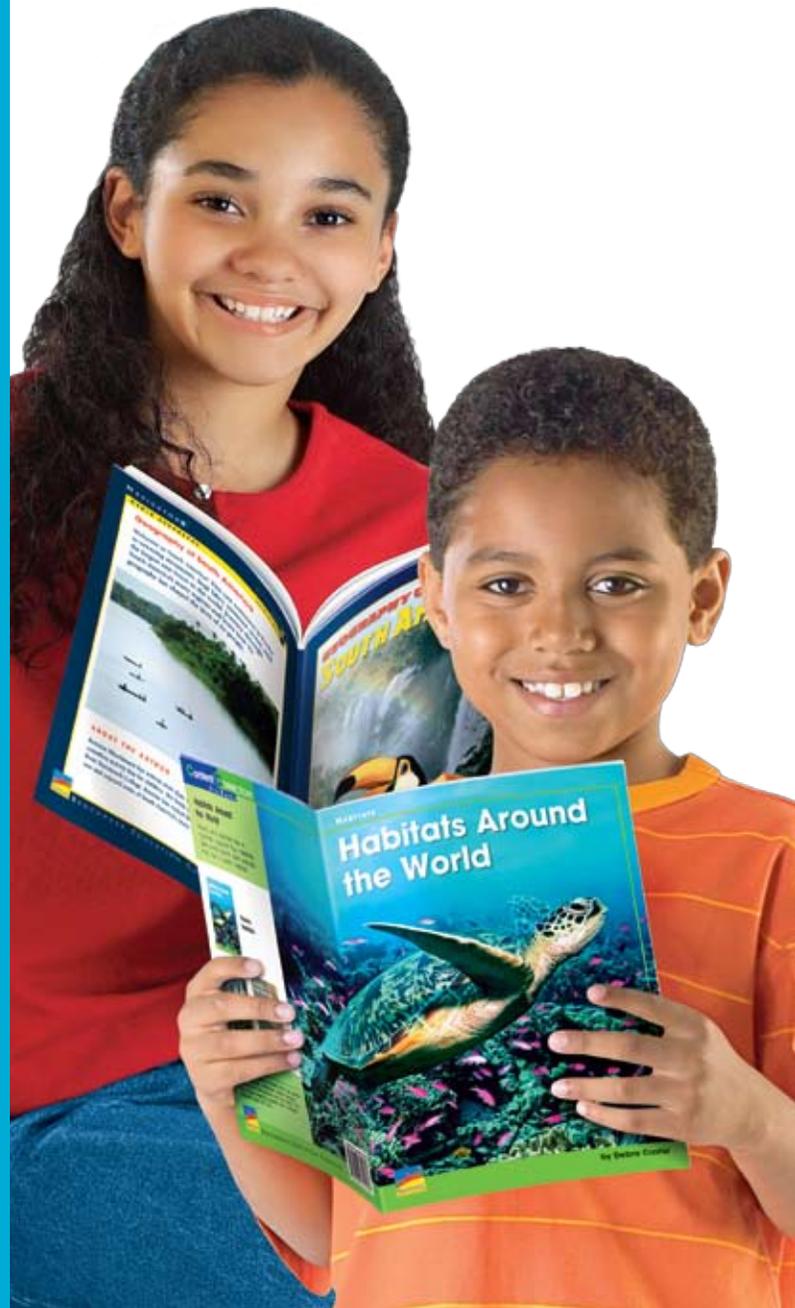
Dear Parents,

This year, your child will develop reading and writing skills using the *Benchmark Literacy* Program for Grades K–6. This program builds all of the essential areas of literacy, including:

- Speaking and listening
- Phonics and word study
- Vocabulary
- Fluency
- Comprehension
- Writing skills

Look on the next page to see what your child's daily reading and writing instruction will look like. This instruction is designed to ensure that your child gets explicit modeling, repeated practice opportunities, and all of the support he or she needs to become a proficient reader of both fiction and nonfiction math, science, and social studies texts.

To learn more about Benchmark Literacy resources, please visit www.benchmarkeducation.com. In the coming months, we look forward to providing online resources especially for you to use at home. We will alert your child's teacher as soon as these are available!



What will your child's daily literacy instruction look like?

Instruction:	Description:	Instructional Goals:
 <p>10 min</p> <p>Read-Aloud</p>	<p><i>Your child's teacher will select a favorite book to read aloud to the class. While reading, the teacher models how good readers think about and analyze a text.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the love of reading • Model good reader strategies
 <p>20 min</p> <p>Mini-Lessons</p>	<p><i>Each day, the teacher will introduce and model specific reading skills and strategies using tools such as posters, big books, and interactive whiteboard resources. Your child will participate in group and partner discussions, reading experiences, and shared writing experiences.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach good reader strategies • Develop students' vocabularies • Build reading fluency • Introduce text and graphic features • Build genre and literary analysis skills • Model writing strategies
 <p>60 min</p> <p>Small-Group & Independent Reading</p>	<p><i>The teacher meets with 4 to 6 students at a time who have similar reading needs. Each small group reads books matched to their levels and the teacher observes and supports students' reading strategies. While the teacher meets with one group, other students read independently or with buddies.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice reading strategies • Provide feedback and support • Build comprehension • Extend reading vocabulary • Introduce text types and genres
 <p>10 min</p> <p>Individual Conferences</p>	<p><i>Each day the teacher meets one-on-one with a few students to discuss their independent reading, share observations, and conduct informal assessments that help the teacher meet students' individual needs.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review independent reading choices • Monitor skill development • Provide feedback and support
 <p>20 min</p> <p>Phonics & Word Study</p>	<p><i>During this part of the day, students focus on specific phonics or word study skills appropriate to their grade levels. This instruction helps students become more fluent readers and teaches them strategies to expand their vocabularies.</i></p>	<p>K-2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build sound/symbol relationships • Teach students to decode and blend • Build sight word knowledge <p>3-6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend phonics instruction • Teach word origins • Build vocabulary strategies