
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! This creates a sense of self-efficacy that can lead to the love of reading.

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

average scores on these tests may be referred to the school’s intervention team for extra reading help.

Ask your child’s teacher when you 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!

Websites for Adults to Explore

- Early Literacy Games and Tips for Parents at <http://getreadytoread.org/>
- Activities and Links to Cool Literacy Stuff <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/home.html>
- Apps for Reading Comprehension <https://www.readingrockets.org/literacyapps/comprehension>
- What to do if Your Child Struggles <https://www.readingrockets.org/helping>

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 access to school/classroom libraries and 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:

- Ask your child’s teacher about choice reading in

class, and access to books through the school/classroom library.

- 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 their 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 in your child’s journey towards the joy of reading. Please partner with your school!

Links for Kids

- Ages 3-9 <https://pbskids.org/>
- Ages 5-8 <https://www.starfall.com/h/>
- Ages 8-11 <https://www.funbrain.com/books>
- Reading Games <http://r53-vip.pbskids.org/games/reading/>

