

GRADES 4-8 HOME SUPPORT GUIDE

4-8 INSTRUCTIONAL READING LEVELS

The instructional Reading Level indicates at what grade level your child is reading. A reading level of 4.5 would mean that your child is reading at the 4th grade level, mid-year. A reading level of 8.0 would mean that your child is reading at the 8th level, beginning of year.

1.0-1.5 Readers are dependent on teacher assistance to understand the basics of books and print. They are able to read words that are used in high frequency such as the, a, at. Students rely on pictures to help them understand the meaning of text. Large print with limited text on the page are necessary for comprehension.

2.0-2.5 Readers are beginning to learn how to attack words and are able to better comprehend text. Students are still dependent on teacher assistance to comprehend text. Students understand that reading serves many purposes such as to entertain, to inform or to persuade. Student can identify fiction from non-fiction text, are less dependent on pictures and can read more lines of print per page.

3.0-3.5 Readers no longer have to rely as heavily on word attack skills. Students are beginning to comprehend text on their own. Students are also able to recognize different genres of text and can read text with longer sentences, more text per page, and richer vocabulary.

The expectation is that students read at or above grade level.

4.0-4.5 Readers understand a variety of texts. Most reading is silent; readers understand different points of view and use word solving skills to figure out complex words and sentences.

5.0-5.5 Readers understand a variety of texts; texts are longer, requiring thinking to form an opinion of both fiction and nonfiction passages.

6.0-6.5 Readers understand a full range of texts. Longer texts include complex sentences, paragraphs, and multi-syllable words (e.g. bankruptcy, uplifting, etc.) that the reader is expected to understand and to which the reader is expected to respond.

7.0-7.5 Readers understand a full range of texts that introduce mature themes such as abuse, poverty, and war. Texts are longer and include complex sentences and paragraphs that vary for the reader to understand and to which the reader is expected to respond.

8.0-8.5 Readers understand a wide range of texts. Most reading is silent. Reading without mistakes is established. Stories and characters have several different qualities and are understood on several levels.

9.0-10.0 (FLUENT READERS) Fluent readers have successfully learned to read. Their goal now is reading to understand with the intent to make meaning from what they are reading. They read with expression and follow punctuation in order to read smoothly and clearly. Increasing their independent reading will enhance their comprehension skills in order to read challenge reading material.

READING

- Build a home library that includes a variety of reading materials.
- Ask questions about stories: "What happened at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of the story."
- Select books, magazines, and Internet articles to read.
- Read a newspaper and discuss current events. Let your child see you reading for pleasure and information (newspaper, poetry).
- Become a frequent visitor to the public library.
- Discuss and analyze ads on TV and on billboards in your neighborhood. (What do they advertise?)

MATHEMATICS

- Look for real-world activities that require your child to use mathematical skills such as measuring ingredients for recipes.
- Plan trips using SEPTA subways, trains, and buses using the schedules.
- Encourage your child to use mental math while shopping.
- Use sports information to determine statistical data such as finding the batting averages of baseball players.
- Involve your child in locating routes on a map and provide directions to their destination, i.e., north, south, east, west, or scale measurement.
- Identify and classify geometric shapes within your house and neighborhood.
- Involve your child in household repairs and improvements such as measuring a room for carpeting. Have child also calculate the cost.

SCIENCE

- Encourage curiosity and question-asking. Family members can participate in discovery by telling children "I don't know, but let's find out together."
- Ask your child what they are learning in school. Discuss how science touches every aspect of our lives, from green energy to climate change.
- Visit science museums, outdoor education areas, zoos, and nature preserves to show your children you value science.
- Observe the natural world with your child by pointing out things such as the appearance of leaves on the trees in spring or the cracking of a sidewalk due to the freeze-thaw cycle and weathering.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Discuss financial skills such as money management, writing checks, and household budgeting; apply them to daily situations.
- Read together and discuss facts about diverse cultures.
- Discuss current events from news sources (TV, newspapers, and magazines).
- Explain and discuss the important aspects of the Civil Rights Movement.

WRITING

- Have your child write letters or emails that provide information to relatives or friends about recent events, observations, and feelings.
- Have your child write instructions for an everyday task (e.g. making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich).
- Students often try to persuade their parents to let them do or have something. Have your child write a convincing piece citing reasons and evidence, anticipating concerns or arguments.
- Work with your child to write a short story or play about a personal experience. Share it with your family.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Have your child eat a healthy breakfast every morning, either at home or at school.
- Participate in physical activity; limit TV and video time.
- Discuss anger and ways to manage it.
- Discuss bullying, strategies to avoid being a target, and how to help someone who is being bullied.
- Discuss risky behaviors and ways to negotiate peer pressure.

ART & MUSIC

- Sing and play more advanced melodies representing various musical styles and historical periods.
- Provide appropriate art tools to explore drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture.
- Attend musical performances and art museums.

WORLD LANGUAGE

- Practice the vocabulary phrases learned with your child.
- Play guessing games with your child using the vocabulary learned.

IN DANGER OF RETENTION

Students who are in danger of being retained will be identified on the report cards during the second and third marking periods. The final report card will indicate whether a student is promoted or assigned to a summer program.

GRADES 4 - 7

Students who receive D's, F's or are missing a mark in Mathematics, Reading or Science are in danger of being retained.

GRADE 8

Students who receive D's, F's or are missing a mark in any of the four major subject areas (Mathematics, Reading, Science or Social Studies) are in danger of being retained.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF
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