

Special Education/Intervention Newsletter  
Monthly Newsletter Oct. 2023



# Twin Ridge Elementary

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## CURRICULUM UPDATES

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



FCPS is using a new comprehensive ELA curriculum resource in grades K-2 called *SRA Open Court Reading*. The daily lessons include 3 components: Foundational Skills, Reading and Responding and Language Arts. The chart below displays the instructional focus areas for each grade level.

<b>K</b>	Letter Recognition	Print / Book Awareness	Phonological and Phonemic Awareness	Phonics and Fluency	Vocabulary and Comprehension	Inquiry	Writing and Grammar
<b>1</b>	Letter / Book / Print Awareness	Phonemic Awareness	Phonics and Fluency		Vocabulary and Comprehension	Inquiry	Language Arts, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar
<b>2</b>	Phonics / Word Analysis		Fluency	Vocabulary and Comprehension	Inquiry	Language Arts, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar	

\*Instructional Emphasis Chart was pulled from *SRA Open Court Reading Program Overview* document.

## MATH

### Learning for Life

This month we will focus on understanding how we can learn from what we read.

**Reading:** We will focus on animals in the farm. Building a connection to our fair day field trip.

**Text:** Chicken Little, On the Farm

**Math:** Students will explore their schedule in reference to time of day to build a connection to learning how to tell time.

**Writing:** I can share about my life. Students will complete their “My family Project”. Please send a family photo in!

**Life Skills:** I can write or say my address!

Reminders: Please remember it is so important to hear stories. Please take a moment to read your students library with or to them.

## Preschool

The preschool students have done a wonderful job adjusting to the school routine and with developing new friendships.

**Language Arts:** Read with your child every day. Have your child retell the story. Make predictions about a story. Talk about the characters, setting and events. Draw pictures with your child and take turns telling stories about the pictures. Label and write a sentence about your pictures.

I am excited to see that many students can recognize their first name in print. We are working on identifying the letters, tracing and writing their name. When working with your child at home, please encourage your child to make the first letter uppercase and the rest lowercase.

**Math:** Our focus in math will be counting and recognizing numbers; identifying groups of objects as greater/less than/equal to; sorting based on different attributes; and shape identification.

**Reminders:** As the weather becomes more unpredictable, please send in a jacket or sweatshirt for when we go outside for recess in case it's chilly.

## Special Education

### Important Dates:

- 10/11/23 – Schools Open 4 Hours Late for Evening Conferences
- 10/12/23 – Schools Open 4 Hours Late for Evening Conference
- 10/13/23 – Schools Dismiss 3.5 Hours Early for Afternoon Conferences
- 10/20/23 – Teacher PL No School for Students
- 10/26/23 – End of Term 1
- 10/27/23 – Teacher Work Day No School for Students

IEP Progress Reports are issued the same day as report cards. Quarter 1 Progress Reports will be sent home on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Progress Reports are sent in the same format as parents have requested for meeting documents (i.e. email, sent with student, parent pick-up, or mail).

### At Home Skill Building:

Games are a great way to build skills at home, and make learning fun. Board Games can build executive functioning skills by teaching skills like following directions and planning. Check out this article from Understood.org with some great ideas of games to play at home.

<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/8-fun-games-that-can-improve-your-childs-executive-functioning-skills>

### **TIP of the Month:**

Do you know about Partners for Success? They are another resource for parents. FCPS works to provide access and awareness for parents related to family support services related to special education topics. They provide workshops for parents and families within the community. This information is found within the FCPS: Parent Guide to Special Education portion of the FCPS website.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Wh-6pWflogEyTct3EuNtdITMAwdD0t9J/view>



### **Reminders:**

- Mr. Hargett, our Program Assistant, schedules all IEP meetings, please note that his email address is [Earl.Hargett@fcps.org](mailto:Earl.Hargett@fcps.org). If you receive an email from him, please know that it is in regards to scheduling an IEP meeting.
- FCPS has a parent resources page that can be a valuable resource and is a great way to find more information regarding special education topics. The link to the special education parent resources section of the FCPS website is: <https://www.fcps.org/special-education/special-education-parent-resources>

## **Speech Therapy**

### **8 Great Tips for Expanding Language**

1. **Talk A Lot!!!**- The more you talk to your children the better their language skills will become (more strategies to come)
2. **Give Wait Time**- Give your child a few seconds to process an answer to your question or other's questions. The suggested amount of time is 5 seconds to allow time to process the question asked and create an answer
3. **Don't Over Correct Your Child**- Over correcting is the exact opposite way of how to improve communication skills. Modelling the correct way helps much more!
4. **Go Unplugged**- Have a time during the day to turn off all electronics in favor of playtime! This will help your child expand their imagination, learn to entertain themselves, and consequently strengthen their language skills
5. **Read, Read, Read**- this doesn't just pertain to books. You can read the back of the cereal box, people's shirts, and street signs. One book a day is also a great goal!
6. **Ask Open Ended Questions**- The answers to these questions can't be yes or no. By asking open ended questions, your child will learn how to think "hard" and reason for themselves.

7. Repeat Words Frequently- Children need to hear sounds and words at least 100xs before they will even start to say it.
8. Praise Your Child for Talking- find a happy medium with this tip. You don't need to praise your child after everything they say. Space it out. Tell them at least a few times a day.