

Special Education/Intervention Newsletter
 Monthly Newsletter Nov. 2023



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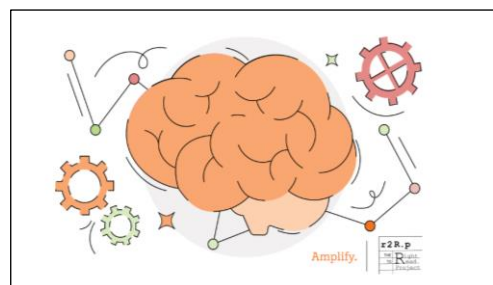
CURRICULUM UPDATES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Brain Builders is a free, student-facing animated video series designed to help children understand what their brain does in order to read. The video series includes 13 videos featuring Minh and his babysitter, Tamara. This resource can be used as an engaging way to help your child understand what his/her brain does during the reading process.

**Resource created by The Right to Read

**Image from Amplify.



MATH

What is the difference between teacher-assigned *iReady* lessons and *iReady My Path* lessons?



The *iReady* teacher-assigned lessons are used in elementary classrooms to support daily math learning. Classroom teachers assign one to two lessons per week that align with concepts or skills students are currently working on in class. These lessons offer additional practice opportunities to support student learning during the math instructional block.

An additional learning opportunity, called *My Path*, is embedded within the *iReady* math program. The goal is for students to spend 30-60 minutes per week in the *My Path* section of *iReady*. *My Path* assigns lessons specific to each student's individual math needs. These opportunities can be accessed at home by signing in through Clever on your child's FCPS account. Please reach out to your child's teacher for sign in information. Once your student is logged into the *iReady* account, there will be two sides of the screen. The *Teacher Assigned* lessons are on the left, and *My Path* lessons are on the right. Just have them click on the next lesson to begin.

Learning for Life

Happy November Families!

This month we will focus on morning routines. Our student will make visual schedules of their morning routines to support them in building a connection from home and school. Please feel free to send in a list of your expectations for your learners and leaders.

Math: We will continue our unit on subtraction and time. Students are learning to count back to subtract using touch points. We are also learning how to tell time independently. You can support this by helping your learner practice counting by 5's.

Reading: In reading we will continue to build a connection to what happens in a story. We will practice recalling key details from the book. Did you know our learners read 3 books a

day! Please have your readers read to you at home. If your learner is pre reading a picture walk through a story is just a valuable!

Writing: In writing we are learning to compose sentences to communicate our thoughts! I am so excited about teaching our learners and leaders more ways to communicate.

Life skills: In November we will: Sorting laundry, inviting a friend to play, bake cookie!

Preschool

Welcome November! We enjoyed meeting with so many parents during conference week. We continue to make progress with establishing routines. The students are working hard, making friends and doing a great job. I am so proud of all of them.

Math: During 2nd quarter the 4-year-old class will be introduced to subitizing (recognizing the number in a set without counting). Games involving dice are a great way to practice. Additionally, we will explore shapes in our environment. Our 3's will be working on matching and sorting using a variety of attributes.

Our 3 year old class will also be participating in STEM activities throughout this month.

Reading: Here are a few ideas for how you can work with your child at home. 1) Read rhyming books. Find household rhyming objects- "bed-red" hat-mat", etc. 2) Let your child see the value of knowing "how to read" by reading a variety of reading materials in his/her presence. (recipes, magazines, email, books, etc.) Let your child choose books he/she loves when you read to him/her. Read expressively; talk with the way the story's characters would talk; make sound effects and funny faces; and vary the pitch of your voice throughout the story to make it more interesting. Talk about the story and relate it to their personal experiences.

The 3 year old classroom will begin reading fairytales, and learning how to interact with puppet theater play.

Writing: For the 4-year-old class, please be sure that your child is practicing writing his/her name. All the students have made progress in this area. Those who can write their name need to make sure the first letter is uppercase, and the rest are lowercase. They enjoy Rainbow writing their name where they trace or write their name 3 or more times using a different color each time.

Reminders: Now that the weather is getting cooler, please send in a LABELED change of warmer clothes. Please remember to **label** coats and hats as well.

Pre-K 3 does not have school every first and third Friday of the month.

Special Education

Important Dates:

- November 22-24th No School (Thanksgiving Break)
- IEP Progress Reports are issued the same day as report cards. Quarter 1 Progress Reports will be sent home on November 8th. 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:

Helping build confidence and the power of a growth mindset are important skills for kids today. We work on this a lot at school with all students. Special education students often feel like learning is hard and we strive to help students understand that we all learn and grow at different paces. We focus on "practice makes progress" since perfection is a great idea, but not an attainable concept. Below is a link with some great ideas on how to reinforce the idea of a growth mindset with your kids at home.

<https://www.understood.org/articles/download-growth-mindset-activities-for-kids>

TIP of the Month:

Defining **SELF ADVOCACY**: "Self-advocacy is the ability to communicate your needs. People who self-advocate are more likely to thrive in school, work, and life. Self-advocacy skills can be learned at any age." – Andrew Lee

Speaking up for your needs is a skill that we learn. Here is another article from Understood.org with some helpful ideas about how to teach young kids with learning differences to advocate for themselves in the learning environment.

<https://www.understood.org/articles/6-tips-for-helping-your-grade-schooler-learn-to-self-advocate>

Reminders:

- Mr. Hargett, our Program Assistant, schedules all IEP meetings, please note that his email address is 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 IEP Team Meeting Survey. We value your feedback and encourage you to complete the survey. Please share your IEP team meeting experience at: <http://bit.ly/ParentIEPSurvey>

PARENT IEP TEAM MEETING SURVEY


Because we value you as partners in your child's education and you are an essential member of the IEP team, we would like your feedback related to your IEP Team Meeting experience at your child's school. This survey is anonymous.

Please share your IEP team meeting experience at:
<http://bit.ly/ParentIEPSurvey>



The Special Education eHandbook is located at
<https://fcps.org/handbookSpecial>

SPECIAL EDUCATION
 FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Speech Therapy

Speech students will be bringing home “What Happened in Speech Today” forms at least once weekly. This form details what your child worked on during their session, their behavior, as well as any important notes for you to review.

Speech Facts

- Receptive Language- understanding or comprehending of what is being communicated. This includes following directions, understanding vocabulary, understanding wh- questions and understanding a story
- Expressive Language-using language (can be through words, a device or sign/gesture) to express oneself clearly. This includes grammar skills, answering wh- questions, telling a story, using vocab correctly, and being able to describe objects and activities.
- Pragmatic Language- social language skills. This includes conversation, turn taking, eye-contact, problem solving, and initiating conversation.

For Home

Here are some tips for developing good language skills while reading a story at home

- Recall details: after reading a story, ask your child to tell you about the different events that occurred. Allow them to look back at pictures to help them to remember.

- Main Idea: after reading a story, ask your child to tell you what the main point/idea of the story was. This may be tricky at first so help your child put all the details together to come up with a main idea
- “my favorite part was...” have your child tell you a part of the story they liked the most or what they related to in the story.