

Special Education/Intervention Newsletter
 Monthly Newsletter March 2024



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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Institute of Educational Sciences' (IES) Regional Education Lab released resources for families to help support reading at home with children in grades K-3. The "family activities" will provide you with ideas to help your child grow in the area of reading foundational skills. The resource includes videos, activities and suggested books.

The activities target the following areas:

- Developing language
- Linking sounds to letters
- Blending letters and word parts to read and write
- Reading for understanding

Click on the link below to access the IES resources for families.

https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/southeast/foundations/kindergarten_intro.asp

MATH

FCPS developed a problem-solving structure for students to use when solving math problems with real world contexts. The three components of the math problem solving mat include:

- Make Sense of the Problem
- Make a Model/ Solve the Problem
- Communicate the answer

To make sense of a word problem, students read, notice, and jot notes about what is mathematical in the math situation. These math notes then are used to make a model of the math situation by either using math tools, drawing a math picture or writing an equation. Together, the math notes and representations along with learned math strategies and/or calculations are used to solve the problem. Students then use this work to communicate their answer to the question, and to explain or justify their math thinking.

How the student makes sense of the context greatly impacts the modeling and solution path chosen. It also affects how effective and clearly the child communicates his or her response. Try out the following ideas on ways to support your child when he or she is making sense of real-world math word problems at home.

- Cover the math question when making sense of the math situation.
- Read the math situation together, and have the student retell what is happening.
- Reread line by line, pausing after each to ask, "What do you notice that is mathematical?" Have the child jot a note to capture his or her thinking.
- Before reading the question, ask, "What question do you have about this math situation?"
- Read the question together and have the student write an equation that matches the math situation.
- Ask, "What strategy/model can help you to solve the problem?"

Learning for Life

Happy March Families!

This month we will continue to focus on communication with during whole group to answer questions. Our student will practice telling a friend the answer and then sharing their friends' thoughts.

Math: We will begin our unit on subtraction. We will learn to count back to subtract!

Reading: In reading we will continue to answer questions from the text. We will be reading Little Red Riding Hood this week to start!

Writing: In writing we are learning to write an opinion about a text. Finally, we will keep practicing how to edit our work using a checklist.

Life skills: This month we will learn to recognize and read signs in our community. Please help up practice by lining up in the community.

Preschool

We are all excited about the approach of spring as we begin the month of March! There's nothing like being outside enjoying beautiful sunny days. We can't wait to enjoy the weather and play outside more.

Preschool continues to work on social foundation skills. Persistence is one important skill we are working on. This is the ability to stick with something and to not give up; to keep trying even when it is difficult; show commitment, pride and a positive attitude in completing tasks; being patient and willing to work hard. Below is some information that might be helpful to you at home:

Parent Tip Sheet - Keep Trying

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19yFUy0Kfc0GCi9Ega7qBzhqa1bl8twMFh4wYNp892Z8/edit>

Parent and Child Activities and Books

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7In40ZNXk9GWWG93dzMyYWdyVVk/view?resourcekey=0-p2Btpk40aF0NKvpvZblRFQ>

Reading:

We continue to work on developing print concepts by:

- * understanding that words are separated by spaces in print.
- * recognizing and naming some upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- * recognizing that spoken words can be written and read.
- * blending and segmenting sounds. (example: c-a-t= cat; hat=h-a-t)
- * blending and segmenting onsets and rimes. (example: m-at, c-at, h-op, h-op)
- * identifying and producing single-syllable rhymes. (example: cat-rat-hat; top- pop-mop)

Math:

Math vocabulary and concepts will focus on number sets to 10 and operations.

Key terms this month include:

- *set: a group of objects
- *subitize: ability to quickly recognize a number without counting
- *match: to put like to equal items together
- *order: to arrange
- *quantity: how much is there of something
- *decompose: to separate or take apart a number
- *add: to combine 2 sets together (to 5 and then to 10)
- *subtract: take away or take from to find the difference between two numbers (to 5)

Special Education

Important Dates:

- March 21: End of Quarter 3
- March 22: Schools Closed (Teacher Work Day)
- March 29 – April 5: Schools Closed (Spring Break)

NEW SURVEY: Every Year MSDE asks for parent feedback through the Parent Involvement Survey. The MSDE Parental Involvement Survey should take about 5 minutes to complete. By completing the survey, you have the opportunity to provide anonymous feedback that will be used to guide efforts in improving special education and related services within our school system. This is your chance to share feedback regarding Special Education Services for your child!

Please complete the survey to share how we can better support your family and child with Special Education services. You can complete the short survey at www.mdparentsurvey.com.

The survey will be available through May 24, 2024. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your experiences and ideas! Together, we can continue to improve Special Education Services and Programs in FCPS.

TIPS of the Month:

- As we move into the spring, we want to make sure families pay attention to updates from classroom teachers regarding testing windows. For students in 3rd-5th grades MISA (MD State Science Assessment) and MCAP (MD State Assessments for Reading and Math) are quickly approaching. These dates are shared with families so you are able to prepare students for changes in schedules, as needed. At school all teachers are continuing to work with students to help ensure that they are all fully versed in their accommodations. We encourage families to review their child's IEP accommodations with them, and discuss the benefits of using all of their approved accommodations. Together we can work to ensure that students are utilizing all of the accommodations that have been set forth in their IEP.

If you would like a little bit more information about what your child will be doing on MISA and/or MCAP, please feel free to reference this link <http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DAAIT/index.aspx>.

- If you want to stay up to date on current school related or disability related learning topics, don't forget that FCPS has a special education parent resources page that can be a valuable reference. The link to the special education parent resources section of the FCPS website is: <https://www.fcps.org/special-education/special-education-parent-resources>

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. This is a survey created by Frederick County Public Schools. Please share your IEP team meeting experience at: <http://bit.ly/ParentIEPSurvey>

Speech Therapy

This past month:

In February, students worked on speech and language activities centered around topics such as Valentine's day, Groundhog day, and President's day. They completed groundhog and Valentine's monster crafts. Other books read included *Journey*, *Return*, and *Quest*. While listening they practiced words using their speech sounds, worked on learning new vocabulary, described pictures, and retold the story.

This month:

Students will be focusing on using speech and language during St. Patrick's Day and springtime activities. Stories this month will include *How to Catch a Leprechaun* and *Rain Before Rainbows*.

At home:

At home, you and your child could work on describing how their environment is changing as the season changes from winter to spring. Topics of discussion could include how the weather is warming up or how flowers are beginning to grow. A fun activity at home could be planting potted flowers – this would be a great activity to discuss sequencing in relation to planting seeds and watching them grow.