

Academic Support at Upland
Parent Information Packet
Lower School Resources

- About Reading Support at Upland
- Encouraging Reading at Home
- Monitoring Reading
- Summer Reading Suggestions
- Websites of Book Lists for Children
- Supporting Writing at Home

Reading Support at Upland:

How does Upland determine if my child needs reading support?

Reading screening is administered to students in grades 1-5 at the beginning of the school year. If it becomes apparent that your child could benefit from extra support, you will be notified.

How does it work?

Students generally come to reading support during their reading period, so that they do not miss other instruction. Students in reading support receive instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

How can I help at home?

Set some goals and incentives for reading. After your child reads two books, take him or her out for a special treat. Choose reading material with smaller chunks of material to read, such as children's magazines or appropriate comic books.

Beginning readers often need additional practice learning the most frequently used words in the English language.

Click or type in this link for Frye words (frequently used words):

<http://www.davis.k12.ut.us/staff/athorsted/fryewordlist.html>

Play games such as hangman, tic-tac-toe, or bingo. Flashcards can be quite effective, as well.

Encouraging Reading at Home:

Getting your child started on the road to reading for enjoyment is one of the most important things you can do to prepare him for school success. Take time every night to read to your child and begin having her read to you. You can get off to a great start by choosing appropriate books of interest together. Here are some general guidelines to help you get started:

- What are your child's interests and hobbies? What attracts your child's attention? When choosing books to read aloud, follow their interests.
- Set aside a regular nightly reading time in a comfortable area, away from distractions.
- Reading aloud is critical for story and vocabulary development, especially for struggling readers. If your child is a struggling reader, continue to read aloud books at his or her interest level.
- When picking out their own books to read, have children use the five-finger rule. Open the book to any page and start reading. Put up one finger for each hard word. At the end of the page, if you have five fingers up, the book is too hard. Two to three fingers is optimal.
- Take time to discuss the story together.

Monitoring Reading at Home:

- When your child reads aloud to you and makes a mistake, point out words she has missed and help her to read the word correctly.
- After your child has stopped to correct a word he has read, have him go back and reread the entire sentence from the beginning to make sure he understands what the sentence is saying.
- Have your child tell you in her own words what happened in the story.

- To check your child's understanding of what he is reading, occasionally pause and ask your child questions about the characters and events in the story.
- Discuss together why you think a character acted in a certain way and help your child to support her answer with information from the story.
- Before getting to the end of a story, ask your child what he thinks will happen next and why.

Summer Reading

Children can lose reading gains made during the year over the summer. Continuous reading is critical to maintaining skill levels. Upland sends home a list of recommended summer reading near the end of every school year. The Chester County Library system also offers a wealth of programs for families, including a book club for tweens, teens, and summer reading clubs. Find out specific information at a library near you at:

http://www.ccls.org/cwo/Find_a_Library/WestChester/Programs

Great Books for Kids!

Check these links for the latest recommend award winning books:

American Library Association (ALA):

<http://www.ala.org/ALSCTemplate.cfm?Section=ALSC>

(Click on "Awards"):

International Reading Association's Children and Teacher choices:

<http://www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists.aspx>

Booklists Compiled by MCPL Children's Librarians:

http://www.monroe.lib.in.us/childrens/booklists/children_booklists.html

Ideas to Support Writing at Home:

- Create a special area at home with lots of fun writing tools such as colorful pens or markers, different types of paper, letter stamps, stickers, labels, address books, and calendars.
- Display children's writing on a prominent place such as the refrigerator or a visible bulletin board.
- When it is unclear what a child has drawn or written, instead of asking, "What is this?" try saying, "Tell me about your picture (or story)." Encourage your child to describe pictures as much as possible in order to develop oral language.
- Begin with writing lists, such as grocery lists, and let your child help.
- Encourage writing on the sidewalk with colored chalk, writing with water and paintbrushes outside, and writing in shaving cream on the sides of the bathtub.
- Having children write their own greeting cards is also a great way to practice.
- Encourage them to tell stories that you can record or type on the computer for kids to make their own books.
- Finally, encourage story writing during free time or purchase an attractive journal in which children can record their thoughts.

For further information, please contact Michelle Madden at mmadden@uplandcds.org