

Indiana Department of Education K-2 Literacy Tool Kit – Note to Parents

January 2012

Dear Parent,

As you may know, in March of 2010 the Indiana General Assembly passed Public Law 109 requiring the evaluation of reading skills for all third grade students. This legislation was developed to ensure students can read at grade level prior to fourth grade. As many researchers and educators have noted, from Kindergarten through grade three, students are primarily “learning to read.” But beginning in fourth grade, students must be able to “read to learn.” Standards and materials only get more complex from fourth grade forward, and students who cannot read proficiently will struggle to keep up with their peers. In response to this legislation, your child will take the *Indiana Reading Evaluation And Determination (IREAD-3)* Assessment during the spring of the their **third grade year**.

To help ensure that your child is making sufficient progress in reading this year, we encourage you to contact your child’s teacher to learn more about his/her reading progress and to gain a better understanding of your child’s reading program.

Best wishes to you and your child for a successful school year!

The Indiana Department of Education

The Five Components of Reading

The National Reading Panel issued a report in 2000 that identified key skills and methods central to reading achievement. The five areas of reading instruction identified by the National Reading Panel include: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Component	Definition	How You Can Help (Strategies are appropriate for Grades K, 1, and 2 unless otherwise noted)
Phonemic Awareness	The knowledge of the smallest unit of speech (the phoneme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play simple rhyming games with your child and read books with rhymes. (K, 1)
Phonics	How letters are related to the sounds they represent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help your child learn the letters and sounds of the alphabet. (K, 1) • Talk with your child about words that do not follow the usual letter-sound rules.
Fluency	The ability to read text quickly, accurately, and with appropriate expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud a story to your child so he or she knows how fluent reading sounds.
Vocabulary	The knowledge of words and their meanings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage your child in conversation each day. • Read to or with your child each day; pause to discuss new or interesting words.
Comprehension	The understanding of what text means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your child questions about what he or she is reading or has read.

For a more extensive review of each component, please visit www.doe.in.gov/ (JW to update with live link.)

Indiana's Reading Assessments

The Indiana Department of Education makes the following assessments available to schools to use with students in grades K-3 to help teachers identify and track students' development of early literacy skills and overall reading progress. These assessments provide information for teachers to use in planning their reading instruction. Your child's school may (or may not) be using one or more of these assessments to measure students' reading progress. To learn more about the literacy assessments used with your child, please contact your child's school.

Assessment	What does it measure?	When do students take it?	What is the format?	What grade levels does it serve?
mCLASS: Reading 3D (DIBELS & TRC)	Components of Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phonemic Awareness ○ Phonics ○ Fluency ○ Vocabulary ○ Comprehension 	3 times each school year	Administered by the teacher to individual students.	K, 1, 2
IREAD-K IREAD-I IREAD-2	Components of Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phonemic Awareness ○ Phonics ○ Fluency ○ Vocabulary ○ Comprehension 	Once at the end of each school year	Administered by the teacher to individual students.	K, 1, 2
Acuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vocabulary ○ Comprehension ○ Writing skills 	4 times each school year	Multiple-Choice, paper-and-pencil test book.	3-8