

Student's name: _____

Six-digit family number: _____

PROGRAM 2

PARENT GUIDE AND CLASS WORKBOOK

How to reach us

Please call 800-964-2030 and listen to the menu choices to reach customer service or to leave a message for the teacher. Have your family number ready.

Teacher's Name: _____ Mailbox #: _____

Make-up Lessons

If your child misses a lesson, it is sometimes possible to schedule a make-up lesson at a nearby location. Please call customer service (not the teacher) to find out about make-up lessons.

Class Materials

Please be sure you have all of these:

1. This *Parent Guide and Class Workbook*.
2. Phonics workbook: *Pole and Vole and the Quest for the Book of Language*, with accompanying CDs
3. Booklist: *Recommended Reading for You and Your Child*

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to your reading program. This program will teach your child to develop strong phonics, reading, and comprehension skills while fostering a love of books and the habit of reading for pleasure. In order for your child to develop strong reading skills over the next few years, he or she must become excited and confident about reading books. For this reason, all of the activities and materials in our program have been designed to engage your child's imagination, build confidence, and stimulate a love of reading. A confident, skilled reader is soon a pleasure reader.

This parent guide provides an overview of the program. Use your parent guide during the program to clarify home practice activities. After the program has ended, you will want to continue these activities to help your child build upon the confidence and skills gained during the program.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Your parental support is crucial in helping your child to benefit fully from this program. The best way to ensure that your child becomes an excited and skillful reader is for you to get involved both in and out of class. We recommend that you:

1. ***Complete the weekly home practice with your child.*** Children will become excited about books when reading is a part of their everyday lives. Our home practice is designed to help you turn the skills and activities learned in class into lifelong habits.
2. ***Bring your child to class prepared and on time each week.*** It is important that your child arrive on time for each lesson. This will ensure that your child receives all of the instruction, and will prevent disruptions of class for your child's teacher and classmates. We also recommend having your child use the restroom before coming to class. **Please be sure that your child brings the following items to class each week: this Class Workbook, the *Pole and Vole* phonics workbook (it is not necessary to bring the CDs), and a pencil.**
3. ***Attend the last 15 minutes of each class.*** During the last 15 minutes of the first lesson, your child's teacher will conduct an introductory meeting for parents to review program goals, explain parent involvement, and explain the home practice. Each week, your child's teacher will also ask you to attend the last 15 minutes of class for a review of the home practice assignment and any new skills covered that day. During the last 15 minutes of the last class your child's teacher will have another parent meeting in order to recommend ways students and parents can continue to build on the progress they have made in class.
4. ***Attend one or more entire class sessions with your child.*** We invite and encourage you to stay through all or part of any class with your child. You may attend as many classes as you like. This is a great opportunity for you to become more familiar with the skills and activities modeled by the teacher. By participating in class, you will be certain that you understand how to support your child during and after the program.

5. ***Communicate with your child's teacher.*** If you are concerned about any aspect of your child's participation in the program, you should speak to the teacher directly. You may leave a voice mail message at the number listed on the first page of this guide, and the teacher will return your call as soon as possible. Our teachers are valuable resources for parents and are happy to answer any questions or concerns you have. On occasion, your child's teacher may also contact you about your child.
6. ***Praise your child sincerely and enthusiastically for his or her efforts and accomplishments.*** Success builds on itself, and a child who feels a sense of accomplishment is more likely to take on other challenges with confidence and excitement.
7. ***Continue home practice sessions beyond the end of the program.*** The best way for your child to develop strong reading skills is to read a lot at home, over and above the reading that is required for school. You can encourage your child's interest in reading for pleasure by adopting the home practice structure as a regular part of your family life.

It is our responsibility to teach your child the necessary skills. We don't want you to feel responsible to be a "reading teacher in the home." Enjoy yourself. Enjoy your child. In all the activities we describe, our hope is that you and your child are relaxed, happy, and playful.

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Comprehension is the ability to understand a story. Skillful readers use visualization to create mental pictures of the story. They identify with characters to understand the similarities and differences between themselves and the characters. They think about why things happen and anticipate what might happen next.

Children who understand stories enjoy reading. In class each week, your child's teacher will teach comprehension skills using a particular work of children's literature. At home, you and your child will practice the skills taught in class.

Reading Stories to Your Child

Each week in class the teacher and students will read a different work of children's literature. At home you should read a lot of stories with your child. Be guided by your child's interest. It's fine to stop reading a book if your child loses interest, and it's also fine to read a favorite book again and again. Exposure to stories will improve your child's comprehension and vocabulary.

Discussions about Books

Discussions introduce children to important comprehension skills. Talking about books encourages students to identify with characters in stories and relate books to their own lives. Book discussions foster a deeper involvement with books and enhance children's love of reading. Additionally, participating in discussions permits children to gain confidence in their opinions and their ability to express them.

In class: Your child's teacher will conduct discussions with the children about the book they're reading that day. These discussions take place before starting the book, during the reading of the book, and after the book

HOME PRACTICE - WEEK ONE

The home practice each week is divided into four parts. To begin, your child should spend a period of time reading independently or aloud to you, with tellbacks, in a book he or she chooses. Consult your book list for advice. You should be available during this time listen to tellbacks, help with difficult words, and talk about the story. This is a great time to do some assisted reading as well, especially if your child is not yet ready for sustained independent reading. Feel free to change the order of the activities below. Refer to the Parent Guide section of this book for explanations of specific activities.

Week 1, Part 1

Day: _____ Title of Book: _____

- ☐ 20-30 minutes: Independent or assisted reading with discussions and tellbacks.
- ☐ 15 minutes: Complete “The Crickets” story dictation on page 10.

Week 1, Part 2

Day: _____ Title of Book: _____

- ☐ 15 minutes: Independent or assisted reading with discussions and tellbacks.
- ☐ 20 minutes: *Quest* workbook lesson 1. Listen to CD1, tracks 1-5, and finish **only** pages 1-4.
- ☐ 10 minutes: Dramatization from a story or chapter you’ve read together.

Week 1, Part 3

Day: _____ Title of Book: _____

- ☐ 20-30 minutes: Independent or assisted reading with discussions and tellbacks.
- ☐ 15 minutes: Play Phonics Tic-Tac-Toe. Use the worksheet on page 11.

Week 1, Part 4

Day: _____ Title of Book: _____

- ☐ 15 minutes: Independent or assisted reading with discussions and tellbacks.
- ☐ 15 minutes: Story dictation on page 12.
- ☐ 15 minutes: Review of *Quest* workbook lesson.

What activities did your child enjoy? _____

Do you have any questions? _____

We have an open-door policy for parents to attend class. Please join us!

STORY DICTATION _____

In the story “The Crickets,” a tired mouse cannot sleep because a cricket is chirping outside her window. The mouse tries to tell the cricket to stop, but it’s hard to hear when you’re chirping, so the cricket invites his friends to come and chirp even louder!

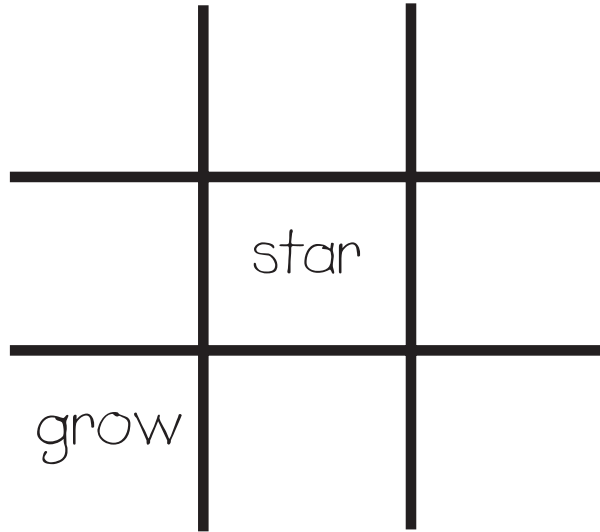
Draw what happens when the crickets come to chirp at your house.

How would you get the crickets to be quiet? _____

PHONICS TIC-TAC-TOE

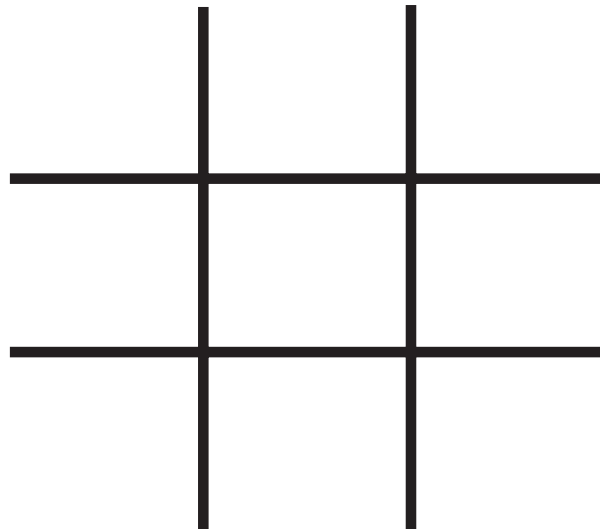
Finish this game and choose different letters for the next two games!

Player 1
Letter or letter combination: st



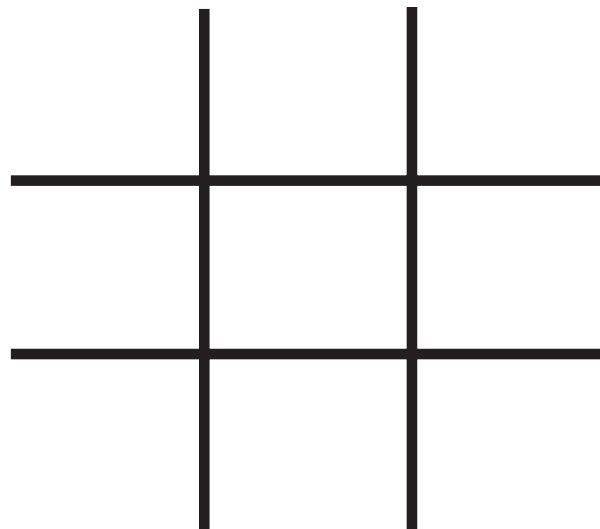
Player 2
Letter or letter combination: gr

Player 1
Letter or letter combination:



Player 2
Letter or letter combination:

Player 1
Letter or letter combination:



Player 2
Letter or letter combination:

STORY DICTATION _____

Now it is your turn to write a story for the mouse to tell the weasel. What happens to the mouse? What animal does the mouse meet?

Draw a picture of your story.

