

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Six-digit family number: \_\_\_\_\_

# PROGRAM R

## 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 Stories*, 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, alphabet, and comprehension skills while fostering a love of books. 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.

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 learning to read only 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 you and 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 Workbook, the *Pole and Vole* phonics workbook (it is not necessary to bring the CDs), and a pencil.**
3. ***Participate fully in class.*** You are your child's greatest role model. Your willing and enthusiastic participation will show your child that you value reading. By participating in class, you will also be certain that you understand how to implement class activities at home.
4. ***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 your child's 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 be involved in reading activities 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.

# HOME PRACTICE - WEEK ONE

Each week you and your child will practice both the reading and phonics skills learned in class. The home practice each week is divided into four parts, lasting 20-30 minutes each. The activities are outlined below.

For the reading practice, choose a book to read together and stop periodically to ask your child questions about the characters and events. Have your child do picture tellbacks. Feel free to mix around the order of the activities below. Refer to the Parent Guide section of this book for explanations of specific activities.

**Please fill out the form below and write down what worked and what questions you have.**

## Week 1, Part 1

**Day:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title of Book:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 10-15 minutes: Reading with discussions and picture tellbacks.
- 10-15 minutes: *King Bidgood* story dictation on page 10.

## Week 1, Part 2

**Day:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 10-15 minutes: *Pole and Vole Stories*. Listen to CD1, tracks 1-5, and complete **only** pages 1-2.
- 10-15 minutes: Play Word Lightning. Use the worksheet on page 11.

## Week 1, Part 3

**Day:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title of Book:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 10-15 minutes: Reading with discussions and picture tellbacks.
- 10-15 minutes: Dramatization. Pick a scene to act out from a book you've read, or act out the whole book.

## Week 1, Part 4

**Day:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 10-15 minutes: *Pole and Vole Stories*. Listen to CD1, tracks 6-9, and complete **only** pages 3-4.
- 10-15 minutes: Big Letters. Decorate the letter F on page 12.

**What activities did your child enjoy?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have any questions?** \_\_\_\_\_

## STORY DICTATION

How would you get King Bidgood out of the tub? Would you end up in the bathtub too?

**Draw a picture of your plan, and make up a story about it.**

# WORD LIGHTNING

How many things did you find in Pole and Vole's picture? Can you think of four more things that begin with the 'm' sound you hear at the beginning of 'monkey'? Write them below. Draw a picture to go with each word.

# M

Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Word: \_\_\_\_\_