

# Read Write Spell

## Developmental Milestones for Literacy

### Babies (Ages 0–12 months)

- Begin to reach for soft-covered books or board books
- Look at and touch the pictures in books
- Respond to a storybook by cooing or making sounds
- Help turn pages

### Toddlers (Ages 1-2 years)

- Look at pictures and name familiar items, like baby
- Answer questions about what they see in books
- Recognize the covers of favorite books
- Recite the words to favorite books
- Start pretending to read by turning the pages and making up stories

### Preschoolers (Ages 3-4 years)

- Know the correct way to hold and handle a book
- Understand that words are read from left to right and pages are read from top to bottom
- Start noticing words that rhyme (cat-bat-mat-rat)
- Retell stories
- Recognize about half the letters of the alphabet
- Start matching letter sounds to letters (like knowing *b* makes a /b/ sound)
- May start to recognize their name in print and other often-seen words, like those on signs and logos

### Kindergarteners (Age 5 Years)

- Match each letter to the sound it represents
- Identify the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in spoken words like *dog* or *sit*
- Say new words by changing the beginning sound, like changing *rat* to *sat*
- Start matching words they hear to words they see on the page
- Sound out simple words
- Start to recognize some words by sight without having to sound them out
- Ask and answer who, what, where, when, why, and how questions about a story
- Retell a story in order, using words or pictures
- Predict what happens next in a story
- Start reading or asking to be read books for information and for fun
- Use story language during playtime or conversation (like “I can fly!” the dragon said. “I can fly!”)

### Younger Grade-Schoolers (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)

- Learn spelling rules
- Keep increasing the number of words they recognize by sight
- Improve reading speed and fluency
- Use context clues to sound out and understand unfamiliar words
- Go back and re-read a word or sentence that doesn't make sense (self-monitoring)
- Connect what they're reading to personal experiences, other books they've read, and world events

The mission of *Read Write Spell* is to advance the science of reading by teaching, training, and advocating.



## Older Grade-Schoolers (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)



- In third grade, move from learning to read to reading to learn
- Accurately read words with more than one syllable
- Learn about prefixes, suffixes, and root words, like those in *helpful*, *helpless*, and *unhelpful*
- Read for different purposes (for enjoyment, to learn something new, to figure out directions, etc.)
- Explore different genres
- Describe the setting, characters, problem/solution, and plot of a story
- Identify and summarize the sequence of events in a story
- Identify the main theme and may start to identify minor themes
- Make inferences (“read between the lines”) by using clues from the text and prior knowledge
- Compare and contrast information from different texts
- Refer to evidence from the text when answering questions about it
- Understand similes, metaphors, and other descriptive devices

### Did you know?

**48%**

of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools are not reading proficiently.

**74%**

of poor readers in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are still poor readers in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**58%**

of children in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools are not on track for college and career readiness.

**90%**

of struggling readers can increase their reading ability to age-appropriate levels with intensive, early intervention.

### We are here to help!

***Read Write Spell*** is here to support children’s learning to read and reading to learn journey.

If you want to help a child who struggles with reading, or if you think your child needs help with literacy, contact us at [info@readws.org](mailto:info@readws.org) or call 336-779-1300.

For additional resources and literacy activities for children, scan the code to visit [www.READWS.org/for-families](http://www.READWS.org/for-families)

