



Dear Parents,

In this six week-unit of kindergarten, students explore fictional characters in literary texts and neighborhoods in informational texts.

Exploring with Friends in the Neighborhood

Essential Question

“How is reading like exploring?”



Reading Literature and Informational Text

As students continue learning about the structure of books, they will be asked to name the author and illustrator and explain their jobs. Students will continue identifying characters, setting, and major events as they work on retelling stories. They will begin comparing the adventures and experiences of characters in a story and will identify how two texts on the same topic are the same and how they are different. Students will identify key details and unknown words in stories and informational texts by asking and answering questions, and will begin learning to identify the main topic and supporting details in informational text.

Reading Foundational Skills (Word Knowledge and Fluency)

By the end of 2nd quarter, kindergartners should recognize and name all upper and lower case letters of the alphabet as well as say the most common sound for each consonant letter. They will practice breaking spoken words into syllables (running = run-ning) and blend the first sound of a word (onset) with a rhyming chunk (rime) to make a new word. (/c/ + /at/= cat). In addition, students will learn to identify the first and last individual sounds of a spoken word (cat begins with /c/ and ends with /t/). Students will learn that what you say can be written down by letters in a specific sequence and begin reading common sight words such as: *the, of, to, you, she, my, is, are, do, and does.*

Writing

Students will write to share information in this unit. They will practice naming the topic they are writing about and then adding information. They will continue practice sticking to one topic and adding details to improve their writing. With the teachers help, students will work with their peers to research information to help them write about community helpers.

Listening and Speaking

Students will practice listening to information and then asking and answering questions to make sure they understood what the speaker said. They will learn more about describing familiar people, places, things, and events.

Language (Conventions of Standard English and Vocabulary)

Learning and using new words and phrases will continue to be a focus for students. Students will practice forming plural nouns when they speak by adding /s/ or /es/ (dog, dogs; wish, wishes) and using prepositions such as *to, from, in*, to add more information (I am moving *to* Texas.; I got my costume *from* Walmart.; The fish is swimming *in* the water.). They will continue practicing saying words slowly and writing down the sounds they hear. They will practice using the question words *who, what, where, when, why, how* and work on recognizing and naming end punctuation.

Handwriting & Keyboarding

Students will continue to learn to print upper and lower case letters as well as their first and last names. They will also continue to practice using the mouse and identifying numbers and letters on the keyboard.