

# Kindergarten Parent Literacy Handbook



**ST. BENEDICT**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

EST. 1962

## *Mission Statement*

At Saint Benedict School, we promote language and literacy skills, beginning in PreK, to all students through differentiated instruction and developmentally appropriate lessons that serve as a foundation for lifelong learners.

We, at Saint Benedict School, create positive growth and prolonged success in language and literacy learning through a nurturing environment that allows for all students to achieve appropriate learning goals by:

- Developing letter knowledge, an understanding of speech–sound correspondences, and phonological awareness with a goal toward mastery.
- Consistently practicing language, communication, and writing skills which are crucial in meeting literacy standards.
- Asking and answering questions about stories and texts while increasing fluency and understanding through exploring diverse texts.
- Engaging and empowering parents/guardians in facilitating, supporting, and assisting students in ongoing literacy development.

## *Vision*

The vision of the Saint Benedict Early Childhood Literacy Curriculum is rooted in empowering, inspiring, and sustaining a lifelong love of reading in our students from the earliest stages of foundational literacy.

Parents and caregivers want their children to succeed, and by establishing a strong partnership between school and family, students can thrive and reach or exceed expected literacy goals.

## *Purpose of the Parent Literacy Guide*

The Parent Literacy guide will provide you with resources you can use to keep track of your child's progress and guide them on their literacy journey.

This guide includes:

- Everyday activities to promote literacy at home
- Literacy growth paths
- Sight words
- Tools and Resources

## Everyday Activities to Support Literacy At Home

1. Read to/with your child every day
2. Ask your child to retell a story in sequential order
  - What happened first, next, and last?
3. Letter recognition out of sequence
4. Letter sound recognition
5. Practice writing his/her first name
6. Review sight words daily
  - *index cards around the house, memory game with sight words on cards*
7. Play games to help identify beginning sounds
  - *ex: while in the car, ask your child to find something outside beginning with a particular sound*
8. Fine motor skills activities to strengthen hands
  - *Playing with playdoh, clay, cutting, buttoning/unbuttoning)*
9. Play rhyming games/read nursery rhymes

## St. Benedict Literacy Growth Path

Throughout the school year, students will spend the majority of their time working on the listed topics. All students grow and learn at their own pace, but most students should understand these concepts and topics well by the end of the year.

### **Going Into Kindergarten (September)**

- Recognize and write first name
- Recognize some letters of the alphabet
- Proper pencil grip (*thumb + index finger OR thumb + index and middle finger*)
- Show interest in books

### **Mid Year of Kindergarten (January)**

- Recognize first and last name
- Begin to write last name
- Identify most letter sounds
- Identify beginning sounds
- Attempt to identify ending sounds
- Recognize rhyming words
- Read most sight words
- Attempt to write a sentence using finger spacing between words
- Identify main characters in a story

### **End of Kindergarten (June)**

- Write first and last name
- Recognize all letters out of sequence
- Identify all letter sounds
- Can identify beginning, middle, and ending sounds
- Read all sight words (*see below*)
- Write a sentence independently beginning with an uppercase letter, finger spacing between words, and punctuation at the end.
- Identify main characters and setting in a story
- Retell a story in sequential order

## Kindergarten Sight Words

Your child should be able to read the following words fluently by the end of Kindergarten:

are	two	green	am	when	or
red	can	do	one	in	what
it	for	I	blue	your	had
want	little	five	said	that	by
of	he	me	like	this	words
have	see	you	the	on	but
go	was	and	they	as	not
to	a	yellow	with	at	all
four	she	we	three	be	were
is	here	my	orange	from	his

### *Tools and Resources*

The following tools and resources can help you interact with your child to support his/her learning. We encourage you to sit with your child and assist when needed.

- [Scholastic Books](#)
- [ABC Mouse](#)
- [Sight Word Bingo](#)
- [Bob Books: Sight Words for Emergent Readers](#)
- [Sight Word SWAT! Game](#)