



Cook Up Some Learning Fun This Holiday Season

Your kitchen has everything you need to teach your young child some early reading, math and science skills. You don't have to buy expensive educational toys - just open up your pantry and involve your child. Here are some simple things you can do together:

Be a Bean Counter

Use an empty egg carton or some mini-muffin cups and some dried beans. Write the numbers 1 to 12 in each space in the egg carton or muffin cups. Help your child to count out the correct number of beans for each space. Allow your child to place the beans in the carton one by one. Add another skill to this task by asking your child to pick up the beans with small tongs or a clothespin.



Package Reading

Look at the food packages in your pantry together. Ask your child, "Can you find the letters of your mom or dad's name? What other letters can you find?" Now, write the letters on paper together. It's OK to help!



Don't Throw Away Those Supermarket Ads!

Help your child cut out pictures from shopping advertisements and glue them on to paper to create a shopping list with pictures. Write the names of the items you are shopping for next to the pictures.



Wear Your Breakfast Around Your Neck

String cereal O's to make a necklace that your child can eat! Simple as that! You can also string macaroni or candies. Try making patterns with colored cereal O's. Count the O's as you string them.



Read, Read and Read Some More!



Choose books from the library about food. See the list below for great book ideas for preschoolers.

Brown, M. (1995) D.W., *The Picky Eater*. Little, Brown.

Carle, E. (1994) *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Philomel.

Jackson, A. (1997) *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie*. Dutton.

Sendak, M. (1990) *Chicken Soup with Rice*. Harper Collins.

Sturges, P. (1999) *The Little Red Hen (Makes a Pizza)*. Dutton.

This information adapted from www.floridapirc.usf.edu

Visit Your Title I Neighborhood Resource Centers

Neighborhood Resource Center - North
7900 N.W. 27th Avenue, Suite F9
(Northside Shopping Centre, 130 South Ct.)

Neighborhood Resource Center - South
5555 S.W. 93rd Avenue, Portable #3
(FDLRS South Site)

Neighborhood Resource Center - Gratigny
733 East 57th Street
(M-DCPS North Region Center)

Critical Information for Parents of Third Grade Students

Florida law [section 1008.25(5), Florida Statutes (F.S.)] says that third graders who score at Level 1 in reading on the FCAT 2.0 Reading must be retained (not promoted to fourth grade). However, children who demonstrate the required reading level through a state-approved alternative standardized reading test or through a student portfolio can be granted a "good cause exemption" and be promoted to fourth grade.

If your child scores at Level 1, you will be notified by the school that your child will not be promoted to fourth grade until he or she achieves the required reading level. Students who are retained must be given intensive instruction in reading to help them catch up. You will be given information about the intensive instruction that will be provided to help your child make progress in reading.

Note: Some students with disabilities, some English language learners and some students who have already been retained twice can receive a "good cause exemption" and be promoted even though they are not reading at the required level. If your child is not eligible for the good cause exemption, you will be notified as to why your child is not eligible. Please refer to page four of this document for additional information.

What Does The Law Mean?

The law means, "We are not going to give up on struggling students; we are going to invest in them." The results should have a positive effect on our whole state. It will reduce the need for remedial education in middle and high school and may lower dropout rates and juvenile delinquency. It will also help Florida develop the highly skilled workforce needed for a strong economy.

Why Third Grade?

A substantial reading deficiency must be addressed before students can move on to the more difficult schoolwork of fourth grade and beyond. As students progress through the grades, the text and tasks that are required for students to understand what they are reading are more complex. Textbooks become more difficult to understand; reading passages are longer. Students use reference books, websites and other written materials to do research for history reports,

science projects, and other schoolwork. Students who have trouble understanding what they read find it very difficult to keep up. Many students become frustrated when they try to tackle this schoolwork without necessary reading skills. For some students, this leads to years of difficulty in school and limited opportunities in adult life.

Exemptions From Third-Grade Retention

Some third graders who score Level 1 on the FCAT 2.0 Reading can be exempted from the retention requirement and be promoted to fourth grade. This is called a "good cause exemption." Good cause exemptions are given to students who meet certain criteria. If you would like to know whether your child may be eligible for a good cause exemption, talk to your child's teacher.

To view the State Board of Education rule that addresses portfolios or for more information go to <http://www.justreadflorida.com/docs/6A-1-094221.pdf>.



Excerpts from the Florida Department of Education

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