

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 2 / Home Letter 1 (at Lesson 1)

Dear Family,

Your child is beginning *Reading Mastery Plus, Level 2*. This year, many new vocabulary words and reading skills will be learned. At the beginning of the year, the stories your child reads are written with a special alphabet. This special alphabet is like training wheels on a bicycle. It helps your child learn to pronounce the words and then is dropped when your child no longer needs it. Soon your child will be reading stories written with the regular alphabet. This will open up a whole new world of books to read!

This year your child will begin learning important reading skills needed in other subject areas such as social studies and science. You may also notice that your child can read beginning chapter books and even short novels by the end of the year.

Research tells us that when the family works with a child on schoolwork and becomes involved in the child's learning, the child makes better progress. Helping your child with schoolwork is one of the most important things you can do to help your child continue to be a successful learner. So, even though your child is growing up and becoming more independent, he or she still needs help and guidance from you.

Several times throughout the school year, I will be sending you the *Reading Mastery Plus* Home Letters to give you timely information on such topics as:

- * information your child has been learning,
- * vocabulary words to review,
- * books to read together,
- * an activity to help your child learn at home.

Even though the school term is just beginning, there are some things you can do now to help your child get started right.

- * Provide a quiet place at home for study time.
- * Ask your child to show you the worksheets for each lesson. Ask your child to read aloud the words and short sentences on these sheets.
- * Take your child to the library to borrow books as often as possible.
- * Ask your child to read to you for a few minutes each day.
- * Read a chapter or picture book to your child that might be too hard for him or her to read alone.

If you have any questions or want more ideas about how to help your child with reading, please call me at the school. I'll be happy to talk with you.

Thank you,

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 2 / Home Letter 2 (after Lesson 30)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed 30 lessons of *Reading Mastery Plus*, Level 2. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
Your child has read a multi-chapter mystery story about TV sets that come up missing. Ask your child to tell you how the mystery was solved. Ask your child how Sid learned it is important to be able to read.	An <i>e</i> on the end of a word can make a big difference! Your child is learning how to pronounce words like <i>mop</i> and <i>mope</i> . The stories your child has read show the importance of honesty, caring, and helping others.	Your child has read a multi-chapter story about a superman named Don. Ask your child to tell you how Don became a superman and what he did to help people.

Here are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to use each of these words in a sentence.

Vocabulary		
taped tapped can cane stairs	pan pane not note making	window somebody super colder grabbed

Books to Read

Your child has been reading stories that are getting longer and longer. We read a mystery story, a story about a boy who becomes a superhero, and a story about someone who gets help learning to read. Here are some books you can read together that will help your child learn more about things that people do together.

Library Shelf
<i>Me and Mr. Mah</i> by Andrea Spalding and Janet Wilson <i>The Orphan Boy</i> by Tololwa M. Mollel and Paul Morin <i>Millicent and The Wind</i> by Robert Munsch <i>Nate the Great (Mystery Series)</i> by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat

Ask your librarian for more books about people and friends to read with your child.

Activity Page

On the next page, you will find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 2 / Home Letter 3 (after Lesson 60)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed 60 lessons of *Reading Mastery Plus*, Level 2. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
Your child has read the fairy tale <i>The Ugly Duckling</i> .	Your child is continuing to gain confidence in reading stories written in the regular alphabet.	Your child has learned that all sentences and proper nouns begin with a capital letter. Your child is expected to write them that way.
Your child has read a multi-chapter story about a kind and friendly ghost named Boo. Ask your child what Boo did to make the other ghosts stop being mean.	We read a story about a genie named Ott. Ask your child what Carla did to help Ott solve his problem.	Your child is learning to read vowel combinations such as <i>ea, oa, ai</i> .

Here are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to use each of these words in a sentence.

Vocabulary		
ghosts	stream	castle
because	mean	roared
biggest	leave	magic
monster	meanest-looking	themselves
laughing	appear	genie

Books to Read

Your child has been reading some make-believe stories. Ask your child to tell you how we know a story is make-believe. Here are some make-believe stories you and your child can read together. Ask your librarian for more make-believe stories.

Library Shelf
<i>The Nine Lives of Adventure Cat</i> by Susan Clymer <i>The Toothpaste Genie</i> by Frances Duncan <i>Genies Don't Ride Bicycles</i> (from the Bailey School Kids series) by Debbie Dadey and Marcia Thornton Jones

Activity Page

On the next page you will find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 2 / Home Letter 4 (after Lesson 95)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed 95 lessons of *Reading Mastery Plus*, Level 2. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
Your child has read some fables—stories that teach a lesson. Ask your child to tell you what the boy learned in “The Boy Who Yelled ‘Wolf.’”	In “The Rabbit and the Turtle,” your child learned that being slow and steady wins the race. Ask your child what lesson the prince learned in the story about the prince and the tramp.	Your child read “In the Land of Peevish Pets” and memorized 16 rules about how to get out of that place. Ask how many rules your child can remember.

Here are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to use each of these words in a sentence. Then make it harder! Ask your child to use two of the words in the same sentence.

Vocabulary		
truck trunk rental dental	phone answered service clothes	toenail funny-looking wizard remember

Books to Read

We have been reading fables, fairy tales, and stories of heroes and fantasy. Here are some more books that you and your child can enjoy together.

Library Shelf
<i>Aesop's Fables</i> edited by Jerry Pinkney <i>Lon Po Po</i> by Ed Young <i>The Hare and the Tortoise: A Fable from Aesop</i> by Helen Ward <i>The People Could Fly</i> by Virginia Hamilton

Ask your librarian for more books of fables, fairy tales, and fantasies.

Activity Page

On the next page, you will find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 2 / Home Letter 5 (after Lesson 160)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed *Reading Mastery Plus, Level 2*, and has made tremendous gains in reading skills! Your child can now read standard print and multipart, complex stories. Your child has great pride in what has been accomplished.

Even though the school term is ending, there are many things you can do to help your child continue to improve the reading, writing, and language skills learned this year.

- * Discover new sections of the library with your child. The numbers on the books can help your child find what he or she wants. Look for books numbered 398. This is the section where your child will find a great assortment of fairy tales, folk tales, and fables to enjoy. The librarian can give you numbers for other sections you might want to find.
- * Encourage your child to spend time reading silently every day. When your child reads a book he or she is really interested in, reading time will be a treat. Your child may enjoy reading some of the books in a series such as *The Bailey School Kids*, *Magic Treehouse*, *Cam Jansen*, or *Nate the Great*.
- * Look for children's magazines in the library. Your child might enjoy reading them, too.
- * Continue to read aloud to your child every day. This shows your child that you think reading is important.
- * Give your child paper and pencil. Encourage writing stories or letters to family and friends.

Books to Read

Here are some books that you and your child may enjoy reading together.

Library Shelf
<i>The Reluctant Dragon</i> by Kenneth Grahame <i>Mei Ming and the Dragon's Daughter</i> by Lydia Bailey and Martin Springett <i>Rotten Island</i> by William Steig <i>Pappa Gatto</i> by Ruth Sanderson <i>Wolf Island</i> by Celia Godkin

Ask your librarian for more books on subjects in which your child has a special interest. There are lots of books on sports, detectives, fantasies, heroes, fairy tales, and so many other subjects. There is a book to enjoy for everyone!

Activity Page

On the next page, you will find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!