

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 4/Home Letter 1 (at Lesson 1)

Dear Family,

Your child will be reading in the *Reading Mastery Plus, Level 4* program this year. Many new reading adventures will be coming! Your child will learn hundreds of new vocabulary words and some important skills necessary for reading in other subject areas such as social studies and science. Reading fluently and accurately will become increasingly important for your child as the reading materials become more complex.

Researchers have found that students whose families support their schoolwork with regular home practice have a higher rate of school success. Your child is growing up and becoming more independent, but your help with schoolwork is still very important.

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

- * information your child has been learning;
- * vocabulary words to review;
- * books to read together or for your child to read independently;
- * 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 for study. Having a regular daily homework time will help your child learn good work habits.
- * Ask your child what the homework assignments are. When your child states that homework is finished, ask to see the completed work.
- * If the homework involves studying for a test or quiz, ask your child a few questions to make sure the information has been learned.
- * If your child has a project that is due after a period of time, write the date on a calendar and check progress daily. This will prevent rushing at the last minute.
- * If your child doesn't have a library card, go to the library together and get one. You can help your child develop important library skills by going there and searching for needed information together. Remember that the librarian is always happy to help.

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 4/Home Letter 2 (after Lesson 35)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed 35 lessons of *Reading Mastery Plus*, Level 4. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
Facts About Living Things Canada geese, ducks, polar bears, killer whales Your child can tell you many interesting facts about these animals. For example: Most wild geese are born in Canada.	Facts About Earth equator, poles, ice floes, ocean currents, clouds, layers of earth, whirlpools The Sun and the Earth What makes day/night? How does the Earth's tilt give us different seasons?	Directions on a Map North is on the top. South is on the bottom. East is on this side: → West is on this side: ←

Below are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to use each of these words in a sentence. Make it harder! Ask your child to use more than one of these words in the same sentence.

Vocabulary		
migration speckled receive faint blisters	numb kneeled owed tangle Atlantic Ocean	engineer throat practice swift remains

Books to Read

We have been reading about the migration of Canada geese, as well as interesting facts about Earth. Here are some books that you and your child may enjoy reading together.

Library Shelf
<i>The Dinosaur that Followed Me Home</i> by Bruce Coville <i>The Dinosaur Mystery</i> by Gertrude Chandler Warner <i>The Eskimo: The Inuit and Yupik People</i> by Alice Osinski

Ask your librarian for more books like these or for books on other topics your child would enjoy.

Activity Page

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

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 4/Home Letter 3 (after Lesson 53)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed 53 lessons of *Reading Mastery Plus*, Level 4. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
Facts About People and Inventions inventors, patent attorneys, electric eyes Ask your child who invented the bicycle. (Answer: J.K. Starley)	The nonfiction information passages your child is beginning to read are more difficult and more like the information found in a social studies or science textbook	Reading expression is important when reading aloud. Your child has learned that if a word is underlined, this means to read it <u>loudly</u> !

Below are some words your child has been learning. Challenge your child to use these words to make up sentences that show the past, present, or future.

Vocabulary		
museum embarrassed character electricity suggest	explanation assignment device mentioned business	disappointed suppose section hesitated excellent

Books to Read

We have been reading about inventions that solve daily problems or make life easier. Ask your child to tell you about the electric eye, an energy-saving invention. Here are some books you can read together that will help your child learn more about inventions and the people who came up with the ideas.

Library Shelf
<i>Mistakes That Worked</i> by Charlotte Foltz Jones <i>Hispanic Scientists</i> by Jetty St. John <i>What Are You Figuring Now? A Story About Benjamin Banneker</i> by Jeri Ferris

Ask your librarian for more books about inventions and famous inventors to read with your child. The biography section of the library is full of the life stories of fascinating people.

Activity Page

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

Reading Mastery Plus, Nivel 4/Carta a la familia 3

(después de la Lección 53)

Estimada familia:

Su hijo completó 53 lecciones de *Reading Mastery Plus*, Nivel 4. Aquí tienen un resumen de algunas de las cosas que su hijo ha aprendido.

¿Qué hay de nuevo?		
<p>Datos sobre personas e inventos inventores, abogados de patente, ojos fotoeléctricos</p> <p>Pregúntele a su hijo quién inventó la bicicleta. (Respuesta: J.K. Starley)</p>	<p>Los pasajes informativos novelescos que su hijo comienza a leer, son más difíciles y más parecidos a la información que se encuentra en un libro de estudios sociales o ciencias.</p>	<p>La expresión en la lectura es importante cuando se lee en voz alta. Su hijo ha aprendido que si una palabra está subrayada, ¡significa leerla en <u>voz alta</u>!</p>

Éstas son algunas palabras que su hijo está aprendiendo. Desafíe a su hijo a usar estas palabras para formar oraciones que muestren el pasado, el presente o el futuro.

Vocabulario		
<p>museum (museo) embarrassed (avergonzado) character (carácter) electricity (electricidad) suggest (sugerir)</p>	<p>explanation (explicación) assignment (tarea) device (aparato) mentioned (nombrado) business (negocio)</p>	<p>disappointed (decepcionado) suppose (suponer) section (sección) hesitated (vaciló) excellent (excelente)</p>

Libros para leer

Hemos estado leyendo sobre los inventos que resuelven los problemas diarios o facilitan la vida. Pídanle a su hijo que les hable del ojo fotoeléctrico, un invento para ahorrar energía. Éstos son algunos libros que pueden leer juntos y que ayudarán a su hijo a aprender más sobre los inventos y las personas a las que se les ocurrieron las ideas.

Biblioteca
<p><i>Mistakes That Worked</i> por Charlotte Foltz Jones <i>Hispanic Scientists</i> por Jetty St. John <i>What Are You Figuring Now? A Story About Benjamin Banneker</i> por Jeri Ferris</p>

Pídanle al bibliotecario que les recomiende más libros sobre inventos e inventores famosos. La sección bibliográfica de la biblioteca está llena de las historias de la vida de personas fascinantes.

Actividad

En la próxima página hallarán una actividad que pueden hacer con su hijo. ¡Diviértanse!

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 4/Home Letter 4 (after Lesson 106)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed 106 lessons of *Reading Mastery Plus*, Level 4. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
Facts About Living Things coral, barracudas	The Solar System Saturn, Jupiter, Io, moons, volcanoes, gravity	The Speed of Light Light travels 186 thousand miles per second, or around Earth, eight times in one second.
Teaching Animals Tricks training, patience, rewards	Give your child a challenge. Ask your child to name the planets in order starting with Mercury.	Light travels from the sun to Earth in eight minutes.
Pressure buoyancy, soda pop, scuba diving		

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

Vocabulary		
pressure	slumped	ridiculous
tremble	receive	o'clock
appeared	assigned	somersault
surround	buoyant	success
incredible	equipped	guide

Books to Read

We have been reading about the Iditarod sled-dog race, animal training, and the solar system. Ask your child to teach you how to successfully train an animal. Here are some books you can read together that will help your child learn more about animal training and the solar system.

Library Shelf
<i>Stone Fox</i> by John Reynolds Gardiner <i>My Trip to Alpha I</i> by Alfred Slote <i>Space Brat</i> by Bruce Coville

Ask your librarian for more books about animal training and the solar system to read with your child. There are many science fiction books that children of this age enjoy. Bruce Coville and Alfred Slote are two favorite authors.

Activity Page

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

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 4/Home Letter 5 (after Lesson 140)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed *Reading Mastery Plus, Level 4!* We have worked on many reading, writing, language, and research skills this year. Your child is proud of the accomplishments made in reading and in discovering new information.

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

- * Continue to take your child to the library to borrow books as often as possible. Help your child locate more books by a favorite author. Look for nonfiction books or books in a series that would interest your child.
- * Encourage your child to start reading a series of books like *Encyclopedia Brown* or books by a favorite author like Avi. Children who read series quite often get so involved with the characters that they can't wait to read the next book!
- * Encourage your child to spend time reading silently every day. Model how important reading is by reading a novel or nonfiction book yourself.
- * Continue to read to your child and have your child read to you, even if it is for only a few minutes each day.
- * Keep paper, pens, and pencils available for writing. Ask your child to write something every day. Your child can write thank-you notes, cards to relatives for birthdays and special events, letters to a pen pal, and lists of jobs to be done at home or items to be purchased at the grocery store.

Books to Read

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

Library Shelf
<i>A Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories</i> by Richard Peck <i>Encyclopedia Brown: Boy Detective</i> by Donald J. Sobol (detective series) <i>Animorphs #1: The Invasion</i> by K.A. Applegate (science fiction series)

Ask your librarian for more books about subjects in which your child has a special interest. Remember that there are many nonfiction books on strange-but-true facts, sports like soccer or basketball, exploration of other planets, and dinosaurs. Your child may also like historical fiction and biographies of famous people or athletes. Your child can now read novels independently. If your child chooses a book that is "too hard," read the book with your child. Let your child read the easier parts and you read the more difficult parts.

Activity Page

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