



## \*Kindergarten News\*

Ms. P. Cohen & Ms. R. Cohen, Ms. Messel, Ms. Zelter, & Ms. Covello



### **Reading: Growing Expertise in Little Books: Nonfiction Reading**



This month in reading, we will dive into the world of informational reading. We will read nonfiction books, learn about various topics and become experts in those topics so we can teach others about them. Part of our learning is to study the pictures and photographs to get more information about the topic of the book. It's important that we continue to focus on reading strategies to help us figure out tricky or unknown words. We will not only use the word-solving strategies, but also pay attention to parts of our books or words that seem important to the topic. When we get stuck on tricky words we will think about what word would make sense, sound right and look right in the sentence. Students will build up sight word recognition and notice patterns as they read. It's also important to strengthen our reading stamina so that we stay focused and read for longer periods of time. In the final part of this unit, we will learn how to make text-to-text connections within our topic. This means we will notice similarities/differences between books. In Shared Reading, we will also continue to support these reading strategies. At home, please make sure your child is reading daily and is sharing their books with you. Ask your child to retell what the story is about telling: characters, setting, problem/plot and ending. It is important to include important details about the story and retell the story in order, especially when reading higher level texts. When reading nonfiction books, have your child stop and think about what your child is learning or wondering about a topic. Reading baggies must be returned each day. Please log on to MyOn to further support reading time at home.

Below is a list of helpful suggestions that you can use when reading with your child:

Readers...

- Use information from the cover to make predictions about the story
- Flip through the book and look at the pictures to gain clues as to what the story will be about
- Use pointer finger to read each word
- Look at the beginning sounds of words
- Look at the ending sounds of words
- Look for repeating word wall words
- Look for smaller words within a larger word ex. **looking** ->**look**
- Pay close attention to their reading to make sure it makes sense, sounds right and looks right
- Group words together as they read, to make their reading sound more like talking
- Retell the story in order. Include characters, setting, problem/plot, ending/solution

When reading **Nonfiction Books**, readers always...

- Look at the cover/title and think about what they may be learning: "I think that this book is going to teach me about..."
- Stop and think about what they already know about the topic: "I already know that..."
- Take a quick book walk noticing pictures and learning from them: "Wow, here I see... this makes me think..."
- Stop and jot ideas, questions, what they have learned on post its: "I think..." "I wonder why...?" "So far I learned..."



### **Writing: Informational Books: All-About Books**

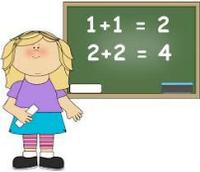


“Wow, we are teachers!” In this unit, your child will have the opportunity to become teachers that teach others all about a topic they know very well. We will write our own informational books about topics we are experts in. In the first part of this unit, we will brainstorm and think about big topics we know a lot about and make sure that all of the pages we write in our All-About book fit together under one main topic. We will also work on elaboration so that we can add more details to our sentences. In order to write more on each page, students will add examples and think about questions our readers may have. During revision, we will use mentor texts to add nonfiction text features to our own All About books. Just like in reading, we will continue to go back to reread our writing to make sure it makes sense, sounds right and looks right.

#### **Some All About Topics may include: (topics they know really well)**

- All About the Park
- All About a Dog
- All About a Cat
- All About School
- All About Kindergarten
- All About Games
- All About Pizza

\*Have your child practice saying at least 3 to 5 details about their topic to make sure it is a “good” All About topic for them.



### **Math: Unit 6: How Many Now? Addition, Subtraction and the Number System 1**

In Math, we will continue to work on number story problems using the different strategies or tools we have learned. Some ways to do this is by retelling what the story problem is about, using cubes or objects, drawing a picture when adding/subtracting, counting on by using a number line, and writing an equation. We will play games to support addition/subtraction skills: Collect 20 Together, Roll and Record 3, Double Compare, Build and Remove, Toss the Chips, and Racing Bears. These games will be sent home for continued support. Please continue to play them with your child to help reinforce math skills taught in school. You can also log on to [pearsonrealize.com](http://pearsonrealize.com) for further explanations of lessons and to play games on line.

**Sight Words:** Every week we send home 4 to 6 word wall words to help with recognition. Please make sure your child is reading and practicing these words. Your child should easily recognize these words while reading their books and be able to incorporate them in daily writing. Visit [www.sightwords.com](http://www.sightwords.com) for games and ideas to play at home with your child.

**Reminders:** Please set aside time for homework everyday. Our children still need your help reading directions and completing their homework. Please log onto MyOn to read extra books and reinforce reading skills. Please log onto Pearson Realize to further support math skills taught in school. Thank you for all your support.

#### **Helpful Resources:**

- [www.sightwords.com](http://www.sightwords.com)
- [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)
- [www.MyOn.com](http://www.MyOn.com)
- [www.pearsonrealize.com](http://www.pearsonrealize.com)

Thank you,  
The Kindergarten Teachers

#### **Looking Ahead:**

- **Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>: Trip to Botanical Gardens. Please send in a bagged lunch.**