

August 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

As part of the South Carolina Readiness Assessment Program and required by the Read to Succeed Act of 2014, all 4-year-old prekindergarten (4K) students will be assessed for early language and literacy competencies using the *Individual Growth & Development Indicators of Early Literacy* (myIGDIs) once during the first forty-five days of the school year and once during the last forty-five days of the school year. We have also chosen to administer the myIGDIs during the winter to provide us additional information to document your child's reading progress over time.

myIGDIs utilizes a data-based approach to screening that has shown to provide a new level of effectiveness in evaluating young children on their way towards becoming successful readers. The scores from myIGDIs provide us information so that we are then able to focus on specific strategies and skills that your child needs in order to continue to make progress. Based on the results, your child's teacher can identify areas of strength or concern and plan individual, group, or class activities based on performance and progress.

How can you help your child become a reader? Every step a child takes toward learning to read leads to another. Bit by bit, the child builds the knowledge that is necessary for being a reader.

- Talk with your child as you read together.
- Have your child tell you a story. Then ask him questions, explaining that you need to understand better.
- Print the letters of your child's name on paper and say each letter as you write it.
- Place alphabet magnets on your refrigerator or on another smooth, safe metal surface. Ask your child to name the letters she plays with and to say the word she may be trying to spell.
- Read predictable books to your child. Teach him to hear and say repeating words, such as names for colors, numbers, letters, and animals.
- Pick a special place for your child's books so that she knows where to look for them. Help your child to arrange her books in some order – her favorite books, books about animals, holiday books, etc.
- Encourage family members and friends to give books to your child as presents for birthdays and other occasions.
- Play rhyming games and sing rhyming songs with your child.
- Read rhymes to your child. As you read, stop before a rhyming word and encourage your child to fill in the blank. When he does, praise him.
- As you read a story or poem, ask your child to listen for and say the words that begin with the same sound. Then have him think of and say another word that begins with the sound.

If you have any questions about the assessment, or your child's classroom work and progress, please schedule an appointment to talk to your child's teacher.

Office of Assessment
and Evaluation

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