

## Bye Bye Finger!

Dear Families,  
We are beginning to remove the finger from students' familiar books to help them begin reading in short phrases more consistently and at a faster rate. The goal is for the students' reading to sound "smooth" or "like talking". If there is a tricky part in the book students are told to put their finger back in until they pass that part. If the words your child reads are not matching the words in the book, have them put their finger back in to be sure they are looking carefully at the words. Thank you for your support at home!

## Pretelling

This is the first step in being successful with retellings (thinking in sequential order).

1. Practice saying steps of a familiar routine or activity while doing it (for example: making the bed, brushing your teeth, jumping rope, etc.) Use the words FIRST, NEXT, THEN, LAST.
2. Then repeat all the steps making sure they are in order.

## Reading At Home

**10 to 15 minutes to enjoy reading together at home**

**Before Reading,** you may support your child by:

- \* Read the title of the book to your child.
- \* If your child already read the book at school, ask them to briefly tell you what the story is about.
- \* If your child has not yet read the book, complete a "picture walk" by discussing the pictures and making predictions about what will happen in the story.

**\*During Reading,** you may encourage your child to:

"Before you read the page, take a QUICK look at the picture and THINK about what is happening."



and

*If your child gets stuck on a word, encourage them to try 1 of the following strategies..*

"GET YOUR MOUTH READY."



"FIND CHUNKS/PARTS THAT YOU KNOW"

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**After Reading,**

- \*Talk about the story after reading the book
- \*Ask your child what their favorite part of the story was and why it was their favorite part.

### What Does It Mean to "GET YOUR MOUTH READY"?

Students are now being instructed in stories that have fewer patterns. As a result, they must look carefully at the words. When they come to a tricky word they are told to "get their mouth ready." This means that the student looks at the first letter of the word and gets his/her mouth ready by making the sound of that first letter while thinking about what would make sense in the story.

### What Does It Mean to "FIND CHUNKS/PARTS THAT YOU KNOW"?

The children are learning high frequency words, endings of words, word families, and practicing letter/sound knowledge throughout their school day. Applying all of this knowledge when they are stuck on a word, will help them figure out tricky words more easily. If the children look LEFT TO RIGHT through an unknown word and use the chunks/parts that they know... *they will be more successful at reading accurately!*