

Dear Dolvin Parents/Guardians,

As an invested partner in your child's learning, I want to share some information about the literacy assessment we are using. The *Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System*, Third Edition is a one-on-one assessment that helps identify your child's specific reading strengths and appropriate instructional reading level for small-group instruction as determined by the F&P Text Level Gradient™. The data gained from this standardized assessment helps identify goals and plan instruction that supports your child's reading progress across the school year. Within each level are easier and harder books, and a range of topics and book types. The text levels are not intended for students or for families to categorize readers, but in the hands of teachers, they inform instruction.


The *Benchmark Assessment System* provides a snapshot in time of your child's literacy development and will be given 3 times across the year. Teachers assess each student in the class by having him read several *Benchmark Assessment* books, having him think about the books, and talking one-on-one with them about each book. This natural, authentic assessment conference is a wonderful opportunity for teachers to get to know your child as a reader and to observe him engaged in literacy activities. It will provide a rich source of information to inform instruction.

Your child will experience a wide variety of book levels across the day in read-aloud, shared reading, book clubs, and independent reading. When selecting books for enjoyment, your child selects from a wide range of books that appeal to his interests; they are not selected based solely on reading level. Your child will also have leveled instruction in a small group for a small part of the day, as it is one critical component of our literacy teaching for lifting your child's competencies.

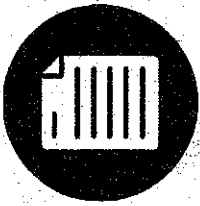
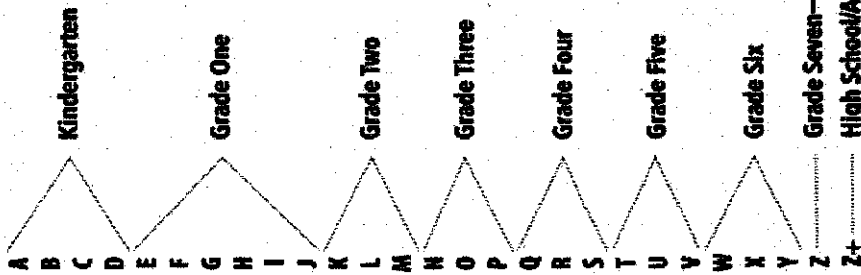
Here are some ways you can support your child's literacy learning at home:

1. Visit your local library together. Encourage your child to select books that interest and excite him.
2. Read books to or with your child and talk about them together.
3. Listen to your child read books and talk about them together.
4. Most importantly, enjoy your time together reading, writing, and talking!

Warm Regards,


Carrie Halfon
Curriculum Support Teacher
Dolvin Elementary School

F&P TEXT LEVEL GRADIENT™



Progress Monitoring by Instructional Text Reading Level

GRADE	MONTHS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR											
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May		
K	—	A	B	B	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	D
1	D	E	F	F	G	H	H	I	I	I	J	J
2	J	K	K	K	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M
3	M	N	N	N	O	O	O	P	P	P	P	P
4	P	Q	Q	Q	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S
5	S	T	T	T	U	U	U	V	V	V	V	V
6	VW	W	W	W	X	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7-8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y/Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z