



Book Bags

Throughout the year, as part of our first grade reading program, your child will be bringing home a book bag containing one book on which to practice his/her reading. The book bags will go home daily Monday-Thursday. Although I have helped your child select a book level it may take a while to find the optimal "just right" level. Sometimes the book that your child takes home may be too easy or too hard.

Please listen to your child read their book. At times it may be necessary for you to read the book to your child first. Please complete the Home Book Log each night. Initial in one of the boxes under Parent Initials for "Read to" - you read to your child, "Read With" - you and the child shared the reading, "Read Independently" - your child read the book by him or herself to you. Please remember the book bag reading should always be done with an adult even if the child reads the book independently. Also, your written comments from time to time will help us communicate throughout the year. You can use the back of the log to write down questions that you have or observations about your child as a reader. I will check the logs weekly. **Your child should return the log, the book and the book bag to school each day.**

Please keep in mind that reading is a strategic process. Predicting, making mistakes, self-correcting and confirming are all part of the process. Particularly with beginning readers, familiarity, repetition and rhyme help children become successful readers. Children often need to read a book several times to be able to read it fluently.

The purpose of this program is to help your child practice reading at their level in order to develop independence in reading. However, please don't let "book bag" homework be the only time you enjoy books with your child.

Sincerely,
Mrs. McNeal