

St. Rita School
First Grade Summer Reading
2026-2027

Dear Parents,

Your child will be entering first grade this September. This is the exciting year that he/she will become a new reader. In preparation for this remarkable event there is a way you can help your child become reading ready! ***Read, read, and read!***

Here are some specific ways to help:

1. Handle a book using “concepts of print” such as going through from left to right, front to back.
2. Recognize common sight words such as “is” or “the” and more.
3. Draw a picture and write simple “sound-spelled” words that tell about it.
4. Name and label objects
5. Say and write all of the letters of the alphabet using the correct formation and pencil holding and know all of their sounds.
6. Have your child write his/her own name correctly.
7. Get involved with your Public Library this summer.

We hope you find this information helpful in preparing your child for their First Grade experience. Additional fun ideas for reading and math are included on page 2. We look forward to meeting and working with you and your child this fall!

Happy summer!

First Grade Teachers

Suggested Reading Activities:

Musical Sight Words: Write sight words on index cards and scatter on the floor. Play music. Child will walk around, stepping on the sight words. Stop music. Child reads the word he/she is standing on.

Sight Word Race: Two or more children look through the book or other materials and find as many sight words as possible in 2 minutes. If just one child is playing, play the game 2-3 times and see if child can find more words than previous round.

Hidden Sight Words: Write sight words on index cards. Hide around the house or outside. Child will find cards and read the sight words as cards are found.

Decodable Books: For beginning readers, decodable books are better than leveled books because the emphasis is placed on the sounding out of words. Leveled readers focus on sight words. The websites below have free decodable books (these are not official school resources):

- <https://justrightreader.com/>
- <https://pencilstopigtails.com/decodable-books/>

Suggested Math Activities:

Addition Matching Game: Index cards needed (or paper that you can't see through). On an index card write an addition equation. On another index card, write the answer. Do this for 10 problems and 10 answers. Place equations on one side and answers on the other. Play a matching game by matching the equation with the correct answer.

Subtraction Matching Game: Index cards needed (or paper that you can't see through). On an index card write a subtraction equation. On another index card, write the answer. Do this for 10 problems and 10 answers. Place equations on one side and answers on the other. Play a matching game by matching the equation with the correct answer.

Snowball Battle: Crumple 10 pieces of paper or use balled up socks. Give each person 5 snowballs. Each person will throw snowballs into their own large bowl. How many landed in each bowl? Add the number from each bowl to determine the total number. OPTIONAL: Play 10 rounds. Use tally marks to indicate who won each round. When done, compare the numbers to see who won the most rounds.