# **Adding Family-Friendly Content**

# **to your School’s RIMP Communications**

Ohio Districts are now [required](https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Literacy/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee-District-Resources) to include in their Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan (RIMP) letters/communications to families specific aspects of literacy that the school will be focusing on with their child, based on the school’s assessments. In the table below, we share 5 key early literacy concepts based on the Simple View of Reading, how to talk about these concepts with families, and activities families can try at home together to support their child’s early literacy skill development, which can be added to a RIMP letter. We encourage you to consult our [guide for writing a family-friendly RIMP letter](https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/2021/07/22/build-trust-with-families-through-the-reading-improvement-and-monitoring-plan-rimp-letter/) as you continue to improve upon your school’s communications for families.

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| **What schools do to Support Early Literacy (**[**EMIS Guide**](http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/EMIS/EMIS-Documentation/EMIS-Changes-1/FY22-Changes/22-30-RIMP-code-deletions-and-additions.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US) **from ODE)** | **How to Talk about this Literacy Skill in Communications with Families** | **Family-Centered Activities to Add to your Communications with Families** | **Links to More Family Resources** |
| Explicit instruction in **Fluency** | An important reading skill for children is to read like they speak in everyday conversations. | Things to try at home:   * Ask your child to read something out loud to you * Read books more than once together * Ask your child to read something at the same time as you (choral reading) | [5 Fluency- building Activities for families from Reading Rockets for all ages](https://readingpartners.org/blog/5-easy-ways-parents-can-increase-their-childs-reading-fluency/) |
| Explicit instruction in **Vocabulary** | Part of learning to read is knowing all the words to say what you want to say. | Things to try at home:  “Kids need to hear new words many times to learn them well. We work on learning new words in school, and at home you help with this skill by **having conversations with your child every day**. Kids learn more words from conversations at mealtimes than they do from reading with you! For example, you can ask your child about what they enjoyed most about their school day, and what they enjoyed least. You can tell them about when you were in school, or talk about your favorite place to visit. We can’t wait to learn more about your family and the conversations you’re having as the school year goes on.” | [9 tips for families to build vocabulary from Iowa Reading Research Center, All ages](https://iowareadingresearch.org/9-tips-to-build-your-child%E2%80%99s-vocabulary-at-home)  [Supporting Young English Learners at Home - 9 family activities from Institute of Educational Sciences](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0l92_G5zfiM)  [Book Flix: Online Books to Develop Vocabulary Skills](https://bookflix.digital.scholastic.com/home?authCtx=U.628847788) |
| Explicit instruction in **Phonological Awareness** | “Part of learning to read involves knowing the names of letters and the sounds they make. For example, “This is the letter A. It makes lots of different sounds, like ay and ah.” | Things to try at home:   * Make letter shapes in ketchup and talk about the different sounds they make.   “We work on this skill at school. You can help your child with letter names and sounds every day as well! **Add pictures of letters around the house** (on the refrigerator, in their room, on a placemat at the kitchen table) and talk about the letters and sounds they make. Tell them they are doing a great job when they say the correct letter and sound. If you have questions about what to try at home, let us know.” | [Help families have fun learning letters](https://www.readandspell.com/us/making-spelling-fun)  [1st Grade Family Guide for Phonological and Phonemic Awareness from Reading Rockets](https://www.readingrockets.org/reading-101-guide-parents/first-grade/phonological-and-phonemic-awareness-activities-your-first-grader)  Books such as [Doodling Dragons](https://store.logicofenglish.com/products/doodling-dragons-an-abc-book-of-sounds) |
| Explicit instruction in **Comprehension** | It’s really important, when kids are learning to read, for them to understand how words work together to tell a story or explain something. | Things to try at home:  * Gently correct your child if they read a word incorrectly in a way that changes the meaning of a sentence. Encourage them to slow down and sound out the word. * When you misread a word, show your child how you go back and read it again so that the sentence makes sense. Everyone makes mistakes! | [Video with Older Brother Helping with Kindergarten Reading Comprehension](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LL0uJqW_jwY)  [Video of Mother Encouraging Kindergarten Child’s Comprehension](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxrcdffJCyw)  3rd grade: [Character Consideration Activity video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKAl1FHKIAw) (and accompanying worksheet: [Comprehension Worksheets for families](https://fcrr.org/sites/g/files/upcbnu2836/files/media/PDFs/student_center_activities/45_narrative_text_structure/45_c001_character_consideration.pdf)) |
| Explicit instruction in **Phonemic Awareness** | Young children don’t hear the sounds within words. They hear “dog” but not “duh”-”aw”-”guh”. To become readers, they have to learn to hear these sounds. | Things to try at home:   * Practice the sounds in the alphabet. * Use a mirror to look and talk about the way your mouth, tongue, and face look when you make certain sounds. | [YouTube Video with Fun Family Games to Learn Sounds](https://youtu.be/q8eFLcR8rpw)  [1st Grade Reading Rockets](https://www.readingrockets.org/reading-101-guide-parents/first-grade/phonological-and-phonemic-awareness-activities-your-first-grader)  [Family Guide](https://www.readingrockets.org/reading-101-guide-parents/first-grade/phonological-and-phonemic-awareness-activities-your-first-grader) |
| Activities and Videos Supporting **All Areas of Early Literacy** | * [PreK-1st, Daily Literacy Calendar of Ideas for Families](https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/2020/01/06/family-literacy-day-by-day-calendar-gain-literacy-skills-every-day-with-your-child/) * [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](https://ohioimaginationlibrary.org/): Free Books Delivered Home, PK-5 yrs * [Florida Center of Reading Research Family Videos](https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/athomewithfcrr) ([Brown Bag Phonics](https://fcrr.org/sites/g/files/upcbnu2836/files/media/PDFs/student_center_activities/k1_phonics/k1_letter_sound_correspondence/k1_p012_brown_bag_it.pdf), [Rime House/PA](https://fcrr.org/sites/g/files/upcbnu2836/files/media/PDFs/student_center_activities/vpk_phonological_awareness/PA23_cards_color.pdf), [Front or Back/Phonics](https://fcrr.org/sites/g/files/upcbnu2836/files/media/PDFs/student_center_activities/23_morpheme_structures/23_p042_front_or_back.pdf), and [Contraction BingoVocabulary)](https://fcrr.org/sites/g/files/upcbnu2836/files/media/PDFs/student_center_activities/23_word_knowledge/23_v001_contraction_bingo.pdf) * [Family Mealtime Conversation Starters](https://thefamilydinnerproject.org/conversation/) * [Audiobooks to Enjoy as a Family from Noodle](https://www.noodle.com/articles/11-audiobooks-to-enjoy-as-a-family) * [Worksheets and other activities](https://www.fcrr.org/student-center-activities/kindergarten-and-first-grade), K-1st grade | | |

Keep this chart growing! Other potential early literacy skills you could add to your school’s chart:

Explicit instruction in Decoding, Explicit instruction in Sight Recognition, Explicit instruction in Writing, Communicative Language, Multi Model, Small Group Complex Text

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