

Dear Parents,

This is your child's book bag. Your child will take books home in this bag throughout the school year. It will NOT always be on the same day of the week. They can get a new book whenever they return one. Here are a few pieces of information you should know:

1. We are working very hard on taking home "good-fit" books. That means that your child should be able to read most or all of the words in the book.
2. The reality is that this may not happen every time. Especially at the beginning of the year. ☺
3. The goal of the book bag books is to ENJOY READING, not necessarily for you to teach your child how to read. If using the strategies we've been learning in school is frustrating, just read the book together and make it a good experience.
4. If your child has selected a book that is too hard to read, you can try one of these ideas:
  - read the book (or part of the book, if it's a long one) to your child...reading aloud to your kids is important and beneficial, too!
  - alternate pages so you read a page and then your child reads a page
  - have your child read the words he or she knows and you fill in the rest

5. If your child has selected a book that seems too easy or that appears to be memorized, ask your child to POINT TO EACH WORD AS HE SAYS IT. This will help him connect the word he says to the word that's in print. Remember that easy books are okay sometimes, too. As adults, we don't constantly read at the top of our reading level (I'm looking at you, People Magazine! 😊). Reading easy books helps build confidence, fluency (sounding like you're talking when you're reading) and enjoyment.

6. Return the bag to your child's backpack whenever you finish so he or she can choose a new book to take home.

Happy reading!

Tricia Kiepert 😊