

Improving Reading with Home Practice & Parent Involvement

Dear Victory Parent/Guardian:

We are all aware of the importance of learning to read well. Unfortunately, reading can at times be a difficult skill to master. At school we work on developing reading fluency using Read Naturally, a program that incorporates the strategies of modeling, repeated reading, and progress monitoring to build reading fluency. To really become fluent, children also need to work on reading at home. Many parents ask what they can do at home to support their child's reading development. The same strategies we use at school can be very effective at home, and we encourage you to incorporate them into your reading with your children – it's a great way to continue your involvement in the education process:

- **Modeling** is an easy strategy to use whenever you read with your child. Instead of just reading to your child, have him/her read the words along with you at his/her own pace. Reading along will help your child learn new words by creating a sight-sound connection. You may want to ask your child to point at the words as you read together to ensure that you are looking and reading the same words.
- **Repeated reading** is another powerful way to build fluency. To use this strategy, encourage your child to read a passage until s/he has mastered it. After reading the same text several times, your child will read it much more confidently.
- **Monitoring** your child's progress will help both of you by proving that your efforts are having an effect. You can keep track of how many words your child can read in minute, or how many questions about the passage s/he can correctly answer. A visual aid, like a graph or a chart, provides motivation and enables your child to take ownership of his/her successes. Your child will also benefit if you offer encouragement, specific feedback, or a small reward for progress. As s/he improves, continue to challenge your child with more difficult reading material.