

Is your child struggling to read?

You want the best life possible for your child.

Reading is the most important skill he or she needs.

Your child must learn to read.

Your child can learn to read.

We must all do whatever it takes.

Ohio is working hard to make sure that all young children get the basic reading skills they need to be successful in school both now and in higher grades.

At the beginning of each school year, schools will check every child in Kindergarten – Grade 3 to see if they are reading as well as they should be for their grade. If your child's reading is not on track for the grade, he or she will receive extra reading help in school.

Here are the questions you should be asking your child's teachers in Grades Kindergarten – 3.

- 1** **How well is my child reading?** This is something you need to know. It will help you and your child's teachers agree on what your child needs to improve.
- 2** **What is the plan to help my child in reading? What is the teacher doing? What can I do to help my child at home?** Your school must have a plan to give your child the help he or she needs to read at the right grade level.
- 3** **How will I know if the plan is working? If it isn't, what will change?** The school's plan for your child should include checkpoints to see if your child is making progress.

There are some additional facts that apply to students that have reached third grade and are not reading at third-grade level. Look at the remaining pages to see what to expect if your child is in Kindergarten or Grade 1, 2, 3, or 4 and is struggling to read.



No

Your child is not on track in reading.

**It's the Start of the School Year:
IS YOUR CHILD ON TRACK?**

By Nov. 1, the teacher will assess your child to find out his or her reading level.

Yes

Your child is reading at the expected grade level.

READ THE INFORMATION THAT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL SENDS YOU

If your child is not on track, the information you receive will explain the areas that your child needs to improve. It will also tell you the services the school is providing and the additional supports available to your family. The goal is that your child is on track in reading by the end of third grade.

YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL WILL GIVE YOUR CHILD A READING PLAN IN 60 DAYS OR LESS

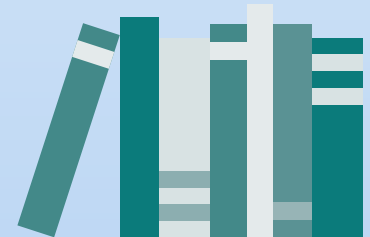
It will contain the ways teachers and others will help your child improve and how you can help at home. It also will tell how the school will track your child's progress.

Questions you should ask:

- How exactly will you help my child improve?
- Who is giving my child extra reading help during the school day?
- What help is available outside of school to improve my child's reading?
- What can I do at home to help my child improve in reading?

YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS AND OTHERS WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO HELP YOUR CHILD IMPROVE

Sometimes a child may continue to have trouble reading even with Third Grade Reading Guarantee interventions. If this is true of your child, your school district can help you find out if he or she has a disability. Your child may qualify for special education. To read more, visit education.ohio.gov and type *Whose IDEA is This* in the search box, or ask your child's teacher for a copy of this publication.



**It's the Start of the School Year:
IS YOUR CHILD ON TRACK?**
By Sept. 30, the teacher will assess your child to find out his or her reading level.

No

If your child is not on track, read the information that your child's school sends you. It will explain the areas that your child needs to improve.

Yes

If your child is on track, encourage your child to continue reading. If your child was on a reading plan in kindergarten, you and your child's teacher may decide to discontinue it.

WAS YOUR CHILD ON A PLAN TO IMPROVE HIS OR HER READING IN KINDERGARTEN?

No

The information you receive from your child's school will tell you the services the school is providing and the additional supports available to your family. The goal is that your child is on track in reading by the end of third grade.

Yes

Talk to your child's teacher about how the plan will change in first grade. What areas are better? What areas still need work to improve? How will help be increased? What should I be doing at home to help?

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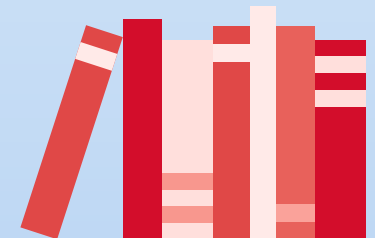
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Yes
If your child is on track, encourage your child to continue reading. If your child was on a reading plan in first grade, you and your child's teacher may decide to discontinue it.

WAS YOUR CHILD ON A PLAN TO IMPROVE HIS OR HER READING IN FIRST GRADE?

No
The information you receive from your child's school will tell you the services the school is providing and the additional supports available to your family. The goal is that your child is on track in reading by the end of third grade.

Yes
Talk to your child's teacher about how the plan will change in second grade. What areas are better? What areas still need work to improve? How will help be increased? What should I be doing at home to help?

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YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS AND OTHERS WILL DO WHAT IT TAKES TO HELP YOUR CHILD IMPROVE

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If No

The school will make a plan to improve your child's reading and show you that plan. The plan will include extra reading time and help from a reading teacher. Ask your child's school what you can do to help.

**It's the Start of the School Year:
IS YOUR CHILD ON TRACK?**

By Sept. 30, the teacher will assess your child to find out his or her reading level.

All students in the class will take a fall and spring reading achievement tests. Your child may move to the fourth grade if she gets a high enough score, called a "promotion score," on any one of the tests given throughout the school year and summer.

If Yes

Your child should continue reading throughout the school year.

Students take the Fall State Reading Achievement Test:
DID YOUR CHILD REACH THE PROMOTION SCORE?

ALTERNATIVE TESTS?

Your child may be able to take up to two "alternative" reading achievement tests during the school year and one in the summer. One of these should be in the spring. These are in addition to the fall and spring state reading achievement tests. If a child gets a high enough score on one of these tests, she may be ready to go to fourth grade.

Please note: your child's school district has to pay for these tests, so ask the teacher if they are offered and if your child is prepared to take them.

No

Your child will not go to fourth grade next fall unless his reading improves. Contact your child's teacher to find out if you can get even more help for him. Also ask the teacher what you can do to help.

Yes

Your child may go to fourth grade next fall. If your child did not score "Proficient" or higher, she may continue to receive reading help once she is there. Ask what you can do once she enters fourth grade to keep her on track.

Students Take a Spring Reading Achievement Test:
DID YOUR CHILD REACH THE PROMOTION SCORE?

No

Your child has not earned the reading score needed to go to fourth grade in the fall. There may be chances during the summer or next school year for him to move up to fourth grade. Keep talking to your child's school so you know what the plan is to get him reading on grade level.

Yes

Your child may go to fourth grade next fall if your child's school agrees. But she will continue to receive reading help once she is there, so she doesn't fall any further behind. Ask what you can do once she enters fourth grade to keep her on track.

It's fall and my child is repeating third grade.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

Your child may be able to do fourth-grade work in some subjects other than reading, if he is ready. But even then, he will stay in the third-grade class until he can read on grade level. You can request additional reading tutoring for your child. Your district will select and provide the outside school services your child needs at no cost to your family.

If your child shows part way into the repeated third-grade year that she can read on grade level, she may be able to move to fourth grade before the year ends. But this can happen only if your school district agrees to it.

**It's the Start of the School Year:
WAS YOUR CHILD ON A READING IMPROVEMENT
PLAN AT THE END OF THIRD GRADE?**

No

Your child met the third-grade reading requirements to enter the fourth grade. Your child continues to receive fourth grade reading instruction.

Yes

Your child met the third-grade reading requirements to enter the fourth grade. But your child did not score "Proficient" or higher on Ohio's third grade reading achievement tests.

Ask your child's teacher:

- Are there ways to find out if my child is now reading on track for fourth grade?
- Are there more reading services available to make sure my child can read and understand fourth-grade subjects as the school year progresses?
- What can I do at home?

Yes

Your child was exempt from retention in third grade because he was previously retained in grades K-3 and received at least two years of reading intervention services. But he did not meet the promotion score required under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Your child will continue to receive intensive reading instruction in grade 4.

Sometimes a child may continue to have trouble reading even with Third Grade Reading Guarantee interventions. If this is true of your child, your school district can help you find out if he or she has a disability. Your child may qualify for special education. To read more, visit education.ohio.gov and type *Whose IDEA is This* in the search box, or ask your child's teacher for a copy of this publication.

Ask your child's teacher:

- What services will be provided in fourth grade to get my child reading on grade level? Will my child's instructional day look different from his peers? What strategies are being used to help my child? What can I do at home?"

NOTE: This roadmap is NOT for those students who have been retained and are seeking middle-of-the-year promotion. Please talk to your child's school administrator to learn about that process.