

📖 Grades K-3

# Literacy Together: A Parent Partnership Teaching Resource

Mastering Foundational Skills K-3



## Online Teachers and Parents: Investing in the Partnership

This resource is specially designed for online teachers and their partnerships with families at home. The principle of this resource is illustrative of the age-old adage: *Parents are a Child's First Teacher*. In the case of Home-Schooling parents become a child's most immediate in-person teacher. Parents rely on their online teachers to coach them and provide support in the form of dynamic online support.

This document provides access to a collection of rich resources that are essential for teaching the Foundational literacy skills in playful and sequential ways through the course of the primary years.

## Custom-designed Packages for Parents

This resource provides active links to the *Joyful Literacy Online Collection* for each of the five Foundational Skills. Online teachers will be able to custom-design packages for the literacy needs of individual parents and their children by skill or by grade level.

Online teachers will be able to choose and download the following proven resources for each essential literacy skill as parents need them:

- One-pagers that describe the **importance of each literacy skill**,
- **Dynamic videos** of teachers and children that provide simple examples of how to be effective instructionally,
- Hundreds of **home-friendly playful games** for fun practice,
- Specific strategies for reading aloud with children while teaching and practicing **comprehension and fluency**,
- Simple assessment examples so parents can easily **measure success**,
- Skill checklists so parents can monitor progress daily and **report back to online teachers**,
- A digital copy of Dr. Janet Mort's book for parents—*Born to Read (2022)*—which teaches parents **how to teach and practice literacy skills at home**,
- **...and more.**

Have questions about this guide?  
Email Dr. Janet Mort.

[janet.mort@icloud.com](mailto:janet.mort@icloud.com)



## Packaging Mini Units for Parents

This resource is designed especially for teachers who partner with parents to deliver instructional services online. The Collection comprises hundreds of articles, games, videos, poems, books, internet links and assessment and tracking strategies – all curated by literacy experts and organized within the Five Pillars of Foundational Literacy.

The 'Five Foundational Pillars' featured in this Collection are those identified in the Science of Research: **The Alphabetic Principle, Phonological and Phonemic Awareness, Word Study, Fluency, and Comprehension.**

Additionally, the Collection includes Essential Writing Skills.

Online teachers rely on parents to assist with instruction at home and coach children daily. The Collection supports both teachers and their parent partners by making this task not only manageable but also playful and joyful for all involved.

Unlike school-based teachers, online teachers typically meet with parents regularly but infrequently. Parents at home rely on teachers to provide them with guidance and dynamic, sequential resources that ensure literacy success. The Collection can be packaged, re-packaged and individualized to suit child and parent needs – all accomplished with ease by online teachers.

## Simple Packaging Steps: Creating Mini Units for Parents

### **Example: The Alphabetic Principle**

#### **Step 1: Focus on Individual Skill Mastery**

In this PDF document, navigate to the section for the Foundational Skill that you want to target (Example: Alphabet Knowledge).

#### **Step 2: Choose a Variety of Skill Resources**

Create a package of resources taking into consideration: the child's grade level and ability, the anticipated length of time between teacher visits, and the interests and capacity of the parents and/or home coaches. This is up to individual teachers or schools.

#### **Step 3: Share Package Instructions for Parents**

Prepare a cover email letter to parents including overview, timelines, suggestions, follow-up expectations, attach or link the relevant resources to the email, and press send!

## Variations in Package Possibilities: Uniquely Yours

This is entirely up to individual teachers and/or school planning teams.

1. Existing resources can be mixed and merged as desired.
2. An annual plan can be developed and resources packaged accordingly. Teacher Guides (1 and 2) from the original Joyful Literacy Legacy Collection provide a sequential monthly plan that can be used for guidance. Links to view-only versions of these Teacher Guides can be found in this document's appendix.
3. Monthly or weekly packages can be developed based on the teacher's availability for introduction and follow up.
4. Individual plans can be developed for families on short-term assignments.
5. Packages can be tailored for students with special needs, including older students, who require interventions for missing Foundational Skills once assessments are completed and identify needs.

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## Mix and Match Packages for Parents

Purchase of this lifetime license per school permits all teachers in the school to access, download, package and distribute contents of the Collection to their parents. The Collection can remain online for updates or permanently downloaded into the school's internal systems.

## Alphabet Resources

### [Basic Introduction to the Alphabetic Principle](#)

Definitions; order for alphabet introduction; assessment criteria

### [Born to Read Digital Book: Chapter 2 \(How to teach and games\)](#)

How parents teach the alphabet, practice with play and games, assess and track

### [Video: Alphabet Crazy Fun Part 1](#)

Designed for parents: Lesson examples and coaching with kitchen fun activities

### [Video: Alphabet Crazy Fun Part 2](#)

Designed for parents: Learning through play; proven games and practice activities

### [Video: Alphabet Video Workshop \(How to teach\)](#)

Teacher presentation: How to teach, practice, assess and track

### [Games: Alphabet Games from Joyful Literacy's Summer Literacy Boost](#)

Hundreds of easy, fun games designed for parent coaches

### [Link Library: The Alphabetic Principle](#)

Links to further proven websites and resources

### [Tracking: X-Charts for Tracking Letter/Sound Knowledge](#)

Checklists to ensure skill mastery for each child

## Phonological and Phonemic Awareness Resources

### [📖 Basic Introduction to Phonemic Awareness](#)

Definitions; Phonemic Awareness (PA) techniques; assessment criteria

### [📖 Born to Read Digital Book: Chapter 3 \(How to teach and activities\)](#)

Parents teach PA skills; practice with play and games, assess and track

### [🎥 Video: Phonemic Play Part 1](#)

PA skills: how to play and teach with poetry, and word ladders

### [🎥 Video: Phonemic Play Part 2](#)

Practicing PA skills for mastery: Parents play

### [🎥 Video: Dr. Anne Cunningham Phonemic Awareness Video Workshop](#)

Our international expert makes PA simple

### [😊 Games: Phonological Awareness Games from Born to Read](#)

Fifty playful PA games

### [🔗 Link Library: Phonological and Phonemic Awareness](#)

Recommended websites to explore

### [📋 X-Charts for Phonological and Phonemic Awareness](#)

Checklists to ensure skill mastery for each child

### [📋 Tracking: Phonemic Awareness Assessment Tables](#)

Additional checklists to monitor sound and word knowledge

## Word Study Strategies Resources

### [📖 Basic Introduction to Word Strategy](#)

Decoding; spelling patterns; vocabulary development; writing skills

### [📖 Born to Read Digital Book: Chapter 4 \(How to teach, tips for parents and games\)](#)

How to teach; tips for parents; playful games

### [🎥 Video: Superpower Word Play Workshop](#)

Integrate phonics, decoding, spelling and word play

🕒 [Video: Superpower Sight Words Part 1](#)

Sight words jumpstart reading with fluency

🕒 [Video: Superpower Sight Words Part 2](#)

Sight words vault spelling, printing and writing forward

📄 [Dolch High Frequency Word Lists](#)

Checklists of hundreds of K to 3 sight words and word phrases

😊 [Games: High Frequency Words and Consonant-Vowel-Consonant](#)

Collection of games, handouts and printable worksheets

😊 [Games: Map It Mat Through the Year \(with video tutorial to teach how to use\)](#)

Video tutorial to teach how to use the Map It Mat

🔗 [Link Library: Word Study](#)

Forty links to fabulous websites

📄 [Tracking: X-Charts for Word Study](#)

Checklists to ensure skill mastery for each child

## Read Aloud and Comprehension Resources

📄 [Basic Introduction to Read Alouds and Comprehension \(Checklist of essential skills\)](#)

Explanation of and checklist of essential skills

📄 [Born to Read Digital Book: Chapter 1, Part 2 \(Shared reading, strategies\)](#)

How to have conversations about books through shared reading

🕒 [Video: Ramped-Up Read Aloud with Maria Walther](#)

International expert makes reading aloud so much fun!

🕒 [Video: Literacy Interventions: Explicit Comprehension Skills](#)

Detailed description of how to integrate comprehension skills (Grade 2/3)

🕒 [Video: Come-alive Reading from Joyful Literacy's Summer Literacy Boost](#)

Special videos for parents make reading aloud exciting

🎥 [Video: Echo and Repeated Reading from Joyful Literacy's Summer Literacy Boost](#)

Special videos for parents make reading aloud exciting

📋 [Tracking: X Charts for Comprehension Skills](#)

Detailed breakdown of comprehension skills (Grade 2/3)

📋 [Tracking: Comprehension Rubrics for Assessment](#)

Checklists to ensure skill mastery for each child

## Fluency Resources

📋 [Basic Introduction to Fluency](#)

Definition and weekly plan for five-day fun fluency event

📋 [Born to Read Digital Book: Chapter 1, Part 3 \(What is fluency, practicing with your child\)](#)

What is fluency and how to practice with your child?

😊 [Games: Poems and songs to use for fluency practice](#)

Collection of dozens of great poems ready to use

🎥 [Video: Reading Fluency Workshop](#)

The importance of everyday read alouds

🎥 [Video: Come Alive Reading from Joyful Literacy's Summer Literacy Boost](#)

Reading together in new and interactive ways

📋 [Article: 3 Ways for Parents to Read With Their Child](#)

(seen in above videos)

📋 [Tracking: Tim Rasinski's Five Day Fluency Plan](#)

International fluency expert (The newest essential literacy skill)

📋 [Tracking: X-Charts for Fluency](#)

Checklists to ensure skill mastery for each child

## Writing Resources

[📖 Born to Read Digital Book: Chapter 1, Part 1 \(How to do shared writing at home\)](#)

How to do shared writing at home

[📖 What is Inspired Writing by Dr. Ruth Culham](#)

Purpose of teaching writing by international expert Dr. Ruth Culham

[📖 Inspiring Young Writers \(Resources and ideas from Maria Walther\)](#)

Resources and ideas from Maria Walther

[📺 Video: Literacy Interventions: Shared Writing Part 1](#)

Reading and writing: Holding pencils and writing together

[📺 Video: Literacy Interventions: Writing Traits Part 2](#)

The seven writing skills K to 3 children must master

[📺 Video: Shared Writing from Joyful Literacy's Summer Literacy Boost](#)

Make writing part of their everyday lives in their homes

## Appendix

### [Open a View-Only Version of our Teacher's Guide Grades K-1](#)

Hundreds of Joyful Literacy implementation sites have demonstrated that over 85% of all K/1 children can master the Foundational Skills if teachers provide research-based playful literacy experiences in classrooms. This Teacher's Guide provides a month-by-month plan that results in over 85% of children reading at grade level in June. For each Foundational Skill, the Guide provides active links to the main resource collection. Teachers have easy access to multiple rich, supportive resources: playful games, video coaching, assessment supports, tracking tools and expert advice: one-stop shopping for busy professionals!

### [Open a View-Only Version of our Teacher's Guide Grades 2-3](#)

Our Joyful Literacy implementation project team discovered that many children in Grades 2 and 3 had not mastered basic Foundational Skills including alphabet knowledge. Unless interventions are applied, children who cannot decode, encode, or recognize frequently used words are not likely to be fluent readers in the intermediate years. Assessing all children in Grades 2/3 for skill mastery, then applying systematic interventions must be a top priority. In the Grade 2/3 Guide, we present a powerful, proven and playful Blitz intervention strategy that can change this trajectory before the intermediate years.