



Sample FASTalk Texts: OUSD TK/Kinder

FASTalk helps teachers send automated texts to parents related to classroom learning each week to help support learning at home.

FOCUS AREA

	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
Writing and labeling	Your little reader is also a writer! Your child will start "writing" with pictures & labels. Have them draw pictures of a favorite story.	Remember to help your child "write a story" with pictures. It's ok if it's scribble! Drawing & labeling are important early writing skills!	I'd love to hear from you. Was this week's activity: 1: too easy 2: too hard 3: just right 4: we didn't try it yet
Illustrate a text by drawing	Your child has what it takes to be a fantastic writer! Help by asking them to tell you a story from their day at school. Ask for details!	Have your child draw a picture of their story, and tell you about it as you write down the words. Now you are writers together!	Did you and your child do the activity? Reply and I'll send more ideas: 1: yes 2: not yet
Building vocab	Some words describe similar actions but have small differences (like drink, sip, slurp). Discuss these differences to build a strong vocab.	Have your child act out different words for jump: JUMP like a kangaroo, LEAP like a gazelle, & POUNCE like a tiger.	Your feedback is valuable! Did you build vocabulary skills while doing the jumping activity this week? Reply: 1: yes 2: not yet
Learning about sentences	Kids learn about sentences (& the letters & words that make them) in K. Can your child find an A on a cereal box or "stop" on a street sign?	Can you find a sentence together - on a bus stop, in a newspaper? Have your child point to each word in a sentence as you read it.	Can your child point to letters, words and sentences? Was this week's activity: 1: too easy 2: too hard 3: just right 4: we didn't try it yet
Reading with expression	In K, kids learn to read with expression. Change your tone of voice (sad, happy) to show how you can change the way a sentence sounds.	Try reading a page together. Have your child copy your pace & expression. You may have to slow down a little, but don't slow down too much.	Did you boost your child's early reading skills this week by working on pace, expression, and pauses? Reply: 1: yes 2: not yet
Letter sounds	K is when many children begin learning to write small words. You can get ready for this exciting step by writing letters of the alphabet!	Make a grocery list together. Ask your child to write each item's first letter. Help by saying the word & sounding out the first letter.	Can your child write a letter for the sounds he or she hears? Was this week's activity: 1: too easy 2: too hard 3: just right 4: we didn't try it yet
Punctuation	During a story, ask about punctuation: How do we know she is excited? (Because of the exclamation point!) What does a question mark mean?	After reading a story, help your child write a sentence about their favorite part. Be sure to end it with an exclamation point!	Can your child end a sentence with the right punctuation? Was this week's activity: 1: too easy 2: too hard 3: just right 4: we didn't try it yet
Apply letter-sound knowledge	Playing silly sound games is a fun way to build language skills. At bath time, sound out body parts as you wash them like: a-r-m & l-e-g.	Sounds form the foundation of written & spoken language. Sound out new words - in any language! Count the number of sounds together.	Can your child sound out words and count the number of sounds in a word? Was this week's activity: 1: too easy 2: too hard 3: just right 4: we didn't try it yet



Sample FASTalk Texts: OUSD 1st grade

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FOCUS AREA

MONDAY

WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY

Use strategies to decipher difficult words

You can help your child build strong reading skills at home. Make time for reading every day. Choose books based on your child's interests.

Help your child read difficult or unknown words by looking at parts of the word they may know or by getting clues from pictures.

Did you and your child read together this week? Reply:
1: yes
2: not yet

Reread to build fluency and comprehension

Reread a favorite book together this week. Rereading helps children read smoothly and understand what they read - key 1st grade skills.

Rereading also helps build children's confidence as they learn to read with expression and at the right pace. Thanks for helping at home!

I value your feedback! How was this week's activity? Reply:
1: too hard 2: too easy
3: just right 4: didn't try it yet

Readers Don't Give Up-They Try, Try Again

Trying to read new or difficult words can be frustrating! Encourage your child not to give up! Remind them to try different strategies.

Share a time when you were faced with a challenge, but you didn't give up. Tell your child how it made you feel.

Did you encourage your child to keep trying this week? Reply:
1: yes
2: not yet

Write longer literary and informational texts, with an adult

What is your child's favorite song? Help them learn the words by writing them down. Offer to help, if needed!

Keep encouraging writing! Can your child help with a grocery list or letter? Encourage them to write the sounds they hear for each word.

Did your child practice writing at home this week? Reply:
1: yes
2: not yet

Contribute to class, group & partner discussions

Play a guessing game this week. Think of a person or place and see if your child can guess it by asking 10 (or fewer!) questions.

Take turns with the guessing game. You're helping your child learn to ask questions and listen carefully. Next try guessing different foods!

I'm curious, did you try the guessing game this week? Reply:
1: yes
2: not yet

Character development aided by revision

Your child is learning how to write about what characters are thinking and feeling. Help by talking about characters when reading together.

Prompt your child to think about a character's feelings by asking: How do you think they feel? How can you tell? Why?

Did you talk about book characters' thoughts and feelings this week? Reply:
1: yes
2: not yet

Building vocab

A big vocabulary will help your 1st grader be a strong reader. Practice new terms at home by using GIGANTIC and ENORMOUS instead of big.

Ask your child what they think the most GIGANTIC animal is. Can you think of one that is even more ENORMOUS?

Your feedback is important! Did you help your child expand their vocabulary this week? Reply: 1: yes 2: not yet

Check and fix words as you go along, work with partners

Give your beginning reader an audience by taking turns reading aloud. Switch back and forth every sentence or page.

With tricky words, ask: how should we solve the word? In addition to using the letters, help them use the cover, title, & pictures for clues.

I'm curious what you see at home. Was your child able to fix words as they read? Reply:
1: yes, no problem
2: somewhat 3: not yet



Sample FASTalk Texts: OUSD 2nd Grade

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FOCUS AREA	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
Asking and answering questions	Readers ask questions to learn more! Play a guessing game to practice. Pick an animal. Can your child guess what it is by asking questions?	Ask your child about their day. Use what, where, when, why, & how questions to learn more. Point out how questions helped you learn more.	Did you and your child practice asking questions this week? Reply: 121: yes 122: not yet
Group discussions	Group discussions are an important part of 2nd grade. We learn how linking comments to what others say shows that you're listening.	Use phrases with your child that show you're listening: Tell me more about... I like how you said... I heard you say...& want to add...	I value your feedback. Were you able to model some linking phrases with your child this week? Reply: 118: yes 138: not yet
Understanding characters	Understanding characters helps reading comprehension. Ask your child who their favorite character is. It can be from a book, movie or TV.	Keep talking about favorite characters. Ask what they like about the character. How are they like the character and/or different?	Did you and your child discuss favorite characters this week? Reply: 177: yes 178: not yet
Using grammar	2nd graders learn the difference between nouns (chair, cat, teacher), verbs (run, eat, sit), and adjectives (red, fuzzy, silly).	Try this "I spy" game with your child to practice parts of speech: Say "I spy a noun" or "I spy 2 verbs." They'll guess what you spy!	Were you able to play the "I spy" word game this week? Reply: 218: yes 219: not yet
Long and short vowels	Strong readers understand vowels (A, E, I, O, U)! Long vowels make the sound of the letter (O in no) & short vowels do not (O in not).	Together, hunt for items in your home with long vowel sounds (ex: A in table) & short vowel sounds (ex: A in hat). Who can find the most?	Does your child understand short and long vowels? Reply: 210: yes 230: not yet 233: not sure
Introducing a topic	2nd graders are learning how to write introduction sentences. The introduction tells what the piece is about, but doesn't go into detail.	Talk about introduction sentences. Ask: if you were writing about your favorite book or movie, what would be a good introduction sentence?	Did you get a chance to talk to your 2nd grader about introduction sentences? Reply: 174: yes 244: not yet
Identifying vowel teams	Vowel teams are 2 vowels that make a sound. EA says E like team, and AI says A like train. Point out vowel teams when reading together!	Play "peek & spell!" Write: dream, read, seat. Cover the words and then let your child peek for 3 seconds. Next, have them spell the word.	Did you and your child try spelling words with vowel teams this week? Reply: 260: Yes 261: Not yet
Recording stories	Many kids love to put on a show. Make an audio recording of your child reading a story or poem. (Tip: use your phone to record!)	Let your child listen to the recording. What do they like about it? What would they change next time? If they want, make a new recording.	Did you make an audio recording of your child this week? Reply: 274: yes 275: not yet