

Dear Family:

A new school year has been launched! This year, I will be using a program called Foundations® to teach some important basics of reading and spelling. However, I am going to ***need your help***.

We know that when a child has a **“Coach”** in addition to a classroom teacher, the child makes significant progress. We will work together as a **“team”** – I shall be the teacher, and you the coach.

I will do my best to provide you with the necessary tools to take on that role. I shall keep you informed of “what is happening” in the classroom and provide suggestions and a guide as to “what can be happening” at home.

I look forward to a very successful year as we work together with your child in **Fundations**. We will have fun teaching and helping your child build a strong foundation for literacy!

In the next letter, I shall share with you Unit 1 and its related activities.

Once again ***thank you*** for your interest and cooperation.

Sincerely,





You are likely wondering, “What is Foundations®?”

Research indicates that **systematic** and **explicit phonics instruction** is effective for all children. Foundations provides a systematic and explicit approach to reading and spelling with phonics. We will combine this instruction with the **reading of good literature**, which is just as important for your child’s development.

Foundations is systematic

because it follows a very definite sequence for teaching and it follows a very definite procedure to teach those concepts.

Foundations is explicit

because this program does not leave room for guessing. It teaches all concepts directly. The children will review letters and how to form these letters. They will learn sounds using keywords to help them remember. They will soon move on to blend the sounds into words.

As the year progresses, Foundations introduces many aspects of word structure and sentence structure. I shall be sending home guides and activities for all of this.

You are also probably wondering, “How can I become a successful “Coach” in this reading program?”

As a “Coach” you can:

- 1.** Read the Foundations letters that I send home. These letters will contain up-dates, program information, and activity suggestions.
- 2.** Set aside time to do the “home activities” with your child.
- 3.** Monitor your child’s progress and share successes as well as concerns with me.

I feel certain that you will find working with your child in Foundations very rewarding. Your child will treasure your involvement!

