Dear Families,

Welcome once again to your child’s preschool year!

Every year, families will ask me, “How can I help my child do well in school?”

We have already discussed the ways you can participate in our school events, but today I want to tell you how you can help your child’s school success at home.

We all know that reading is one of the very most important subjects in your child’s elementary school years.

We understand that children have to learn their a-b-c’s, and they have to learn about the sounds that letters make.

In my classroom, we are doing the preschool work of growing your child’s knowledge of sounds and letters through our Rhyme-A-Week and Alphabet programs.

But we all know that just knowing sounds and letters is not enough to make a child a great reader.

To be great readers, children have to have good “comprehension skills.”

To be great readers, children have to understand how books work. They have to understand how ideas fit together to make sense. And they need to know about the world around them.

Reading researchers tell us that the simplest way to improve comprehension of a book is to return to the book after you have read it one time and to use it in some meaningful way.

And this is where you can be my true partner in helping your child succeed in school.

We are beginning our Read-at-Home program.

Every Monday, your child will bring home a Bookbag.

Inside, the Bookbag will have two children’s books and three envelopes.

On Monday, you will take out the two books, and you will ask your child which book he or she would like to read first. And that is the book you will read on Monday.

On Tuesday, you will take out the same book and the envelope with that book’s title. You will take one activity sheet out of the envelope (they are all the same; there is one for every child in my class).

You and your child will complete the activity sheet together, talking about the book and how it helps us understand the activity sheet.

On Wednesday, you will take out the second book and read it with your child. On Thursday, you will take one sheet out of the envelope with the matching title for your second book. And together, you and your child will complete the second activity sheet.

On Thursday night, you will take one sheet out of the third envelope. This sheet is a nursery rhyme for you and your child to read over the weekend.

And then you will pack up the Bookbag, so it looks just like it did when your child brought it home – two books and three envelopes in the Bookbag. And you will put it by the door so your child will remember to bring it back to school on Friday morning.

Over the weekend, read your child the nursery rhyme. Read it twice and encourage your child to chant it with you. Then ask your child this question: **How does this rhyme remind you of a book we read this week?**

I hope you and your child will enjoy our Read-at-Home program.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Teacher’s Name