

Date: _____

Student: _____

Placement in RTI² for Reading K-3

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We recently completed our (fall, winter, spring) skills-based benchmark testing at _____. This assessment is given three times a year to identify students who are not performing on grade level and may need additional help with reading skills.

Based on the results from the most recent benchmark, your child has been identified as needing help in the following areas:

- Letter Names (the alphabet)
- Letter sounds and word parts (phonological awareness)
- Sound/symbol recognition (understanding the relationship between letters and sounds)
- Individual sounds in spoken words (phonemic awareness)
- Sounding out words (decoding)
- Spelling (encoding)
- Reading words and sentences smoothly and accurately (fluency)

Sometimes difficulties in reading can be attributed to characteristics that are associated with Dyslexia. When students struggle with any of these reading areas, Dyslexia-specific interventions are recommended to address the skill deficits. Students requiring intervention in these areas do not necessarily have Dyslexia but could benefit from this type of instructional support. Please see the attached handout for more information about Dyslexia.

Based on your child's results from the most recent reading benchmark, your child will be receiving intervention in reading in Tier II, Tier III, Special Education for _____ minutes per day using _____.

Intervention through small group instruction is a great opportunity to target the specific gaps in reading skills your child is experiencing. This means that your child will work on basic reading skills, including comprehension and writing, in a small group setting with a highly-trained educator.

Third grade is an important marker for reading proficiency. Research has shown that children who are reading on grade level by third grade are more likely to graduate high school, enter and complete post-secondary programs, and maintain employment throughout life. Hamblen County is dedicated to providing your child with the support they need to reach these outcomes.

Continued on next page

You can also help your child with these skills at home! Here are a few suggestions for ways to support your child's literacy skills at home:

- Read a book together every day
- Practice sounding out words and talking about letters and sounds
- Practice reading the same words and stories over and over to build fluency
- Check out these videos that target foundational skills for students in grades PreK-2
<https://bestforall.tnedu.gov/course/foundational-skills>
- Play Guess my Letter/Word:
 - Say, "I'm thinking of letter that makes the sound mmmmm. What letter makes that sound?"
 - Say, "I'm going to say a word, but I'm going to say it slowly. Can you guess the word? s-a-t

Hamblen County is committed to your child's academic success, and we are glad to have the opportunity to provide your child with the necessary instruction and support he or she may need. You will receive reports on your child's progress at least every four and a half weeks. Both RTI and the "Say Dyslexia" legislation are in place to support your child's success and growth. Please contact me if you have any questions about your child's reading performance, intervention plan, or ways to support your child at home.

Name

Title

Contact Information