

Welcome to Harcourt's StoryTown

A Kindergarten Parents' Guide



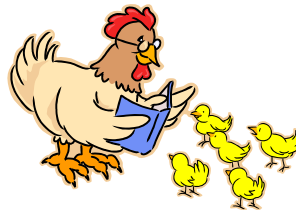
What is StoryTown?

StoryTown is a research-based, developmental reading and language arts program for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. The foundation of the program is its high-quality children's literature, as well as informational texts.

Through the Student Editions, Students are exposed to a variety of genres. *StoryTown* reflects current, confirmed research and prioritizes and sequences essential skills and strategies into a clear, organized model for instruction.

StoryTown features an organized, direct approach to teaching reading. The program emphasizes explicit, systematic instruction in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and writing.

Following instruction, the program provides ample practice and application of these skills, using a variety of meaningful tools and activities suited to different types of learners and classroom settings to reinforce instruction and learning.



Tips for Parents (Home involvement is the key to success!):

- Set aside a regular time to read with your child each day. Be sure to read the library books your child brings home from school.
- Sign up for a library card and visit your local library regularly.
- Model good reading habits.
- Point out printed words in your environment.
- Have reading and writing materials readily available. (paper, pencils, crayons, markers)
- Play with sounds, sing songs, and read poems.



Skills:

Many new skills are introduced in kindergarten. The following skills should be mastered by the end of the year:

- Recognizing and writing all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet
- Associating sounds with all letters
- Identifying and producing rhyming words
- Blending and segmenting the sounds in words
- Recognizing high-frequency words
- Reading simple decodable unfamiliar words
- Retelling unfamiliar stories in sequence
- Distinguishing non-fiction from fictional text
- Identifying parts of a book
- Writing first and last names correctly
- Writing simple stories using age-appropriate spelling



Games:

Games are an important part of developing your child's literacy knowledge. We will play the following games during the school year. These games are important for many reasons. Students enjoy playing the games that make learning fun. Games also help students develop the ability to think critically and solve problems. Finally, games provide an enjoyable way for students to practice and master skills.

Some of the games that will be introduced include:

- I-Spy
- Rhyming Songs
- Sight Word/Letter Bingo
- Sight Word/Letter Memory
- Letter flash cards
- Looking for print and labels in the environment
- Using sand, shaving cream, and Play-Doh to form letters
- Sight Word/Letter Go-Fish



Harcourt StoryTown ILA Themes:

- All About Me
- Families
- Friends
- On the Farm
- Whatever the Weather

- Let's Play
- In the Neighborhood
- Jobs People Do
- Animals All Around
- On the Go

Harcourt StoryTown Websites:

The following websites are available to help you become more familiar with the Harcourt program as well as provide your child with additional resources to practice literacy skills.

[Harcourt Schools](#) (StoryTown Guide)

[Harcourt School Publishers](#) (StoryTown Publisher)

[Harcourt Schools](#) (Parent Resources)

[Starfall](#) (Reading Readiness Online Activities for Students)

[Between the Lions](#) (Reading Readiness Online Activities for Students)

[Storyline Online](#) (Read-alouds and book activities)



“Professional Development” *Harcourt StoryTown*