

Hello, Family!

Over the next month, our class will explore our country to find out what makes the USA so special. Through books, children will meet some of our greatest leaders, sing our songs, experience our traditions, and explore our different landscapes and diverse people.

We will read about baseball, America's favorite game, and children will write a "how-to" book about how to play their own favorite games. As a class, we will learn about the American flag, and then children will design a flag for our town.

Bring It Home

Here are some ideas for practicing the skills we are learning at school.

<p>START TALKING</p>	<p>BIG IDEA WORDS</p>																
<p>Show your child how to start a conversation. Encourage your child to speak politely and clearly and to use this language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Excuse me. Would you like to play with me?</i> • <i>I would like to tell you about ____.</i> 	<p>Reinforce these important topic words when you are reading or talking with your child:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">belong country right</p>																
<p>WORD PLAY</p>	<p>WORDS TO KNOW</p>																
<p>Play with sounds, letters, and words to help develop skills that are important for reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge your child to hunt for objects that start with a particular letter sound. • Read familiar books. Pause before the last word in a sentence, allowing your child to chime in with the word. 	<p>Practice reading and spelling these words that children will see a lot in books they read:</p> <table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>as</td> <td>come</td> <td>cut</td> <td>from</td> </tr> <tr> <td>get</td> <td>hot</td> <td>if</td> <td>must</td> </tr> <tr> <td>or</td> <td>our</td> <td>red</td> <td>said</td> </tr> <tr> <td>stop</td> <td>that</td> <td>when</td> <td>where</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	as	come	cut	from	get	hot	if	must	or	our	red	said	stop	that	when	where
as	come	cut	from														
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or	our	red	said														
stop	that	when	where														
<p>LET'S READ TOGETHER</p>	<p>WRITING TO TEACH</p>																
<p>Make a special time and place to read with your child every day. While you read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to picture what's happening in a story by hiding the pictures. Talk about the picture in your child's mind, and compare it with the pictures in the book. • Look for compound words (<i>doghouse, cupcake</i>). Talk about how the two smaller words help you understand the meaning. 	<p>Support your child to write "how-to" texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with your child to read and follow the directions in "how-to" texts, such as recipes or instructions for a game. • When your child asks how to do something, write a list of steps and read them aloud. • Encourage your child to teach other family members the steps to something he or she enjoys. 																