

Dear First Grade Parent/Guardian,

This year our class will be participating in the *Indiana Reading Diagnostic Assessment – First Grade*. This Assessment has been developed as a tool for teachers. The goal of the Assessment is to provide first grade teachers with information about how each of their students is doing in building the skills necessary for becoming a good reader. Skills assessed include beginning and ending sounds; vowel sounds; phonemic awareness (recognition of the sounds that make up words); word, sentence, and story comprehension; fluency; and beginning writing. Teachers can then use this information to help each student in the best and most appropriate way. The Assessments will be given three times during the year to determine the progress each student is making.

Approximately 500 schools and 30,000 first graders across the state will take part in the *Indiana Reading Diagnostic Assessment – First Grade*. The Assessment components will be administered within a classroom setting and in an informal manner. Therefore students should not feel anxious or intimidated. Teachers will score their own assessments, and scores will be used only for the purposes of improving instruction and improving Assessment materials. Individual student scores will not be reported publicly.

I would be happy to share with you the information I learn about your first grader's beginning reading skills at a Parent-Teacher conference or another scheduled time. The assessments will be given in October, January, and April. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Teacher's Name