

Dear Kindergarten Parent/Guardian,

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

Approximately 450 schools and 28,000 kindergartners across the state will take part in the *Indiana Reading Diagnostic Assessment – Kindergarten*. 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 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 kindergarten student's beginning reading skills at a Parent-Teacher conference or another scheduled time. An *Initial Screening* will be given at the beginning of the year. A more extensive set of reading assessments will be given in January and April. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Teacher's Name