



October 2020

Dear Berri Patch Parents,

As you know, COVID-19 has impacted our lives in various and challenging ways. In the area of education, we are witnessing and experiencing unique challenges in how families, students and educators are engaging in the teaching and learning process.

With many parents now required to take a more active role as “teacher” with their children, and the real possibility of school children falling behind, it is timely that Berri Patch Preschool announces its participation in the **Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign** – an early literacy program co-developed by educators at the *University of Florida* and *The Florida Children’s Council* to ensure that all children are reading at grade-level by the end of third grade.

Berri Patch Preschool has invested in a plethora of new books, and has developed a 3-Phase, 20-25 week reading program designed to promote learning and create a fun literary adventure for both parent and child alike.

**We will kick-off the Campaign on Tuesday, October 27.** Please look for the special book bag that your child will bring home that day.

We are excited to share this statewide collaborative program with our Berri Patch families!

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**PHASE ONE:** UF has developed a series of **15 TIPS** to assist parents and teachers in the reading process. Over the course of 15-weeks, Berri Patch will provide a bag each week containing a new book and the corresponding TIP Sheet to be used while you and your child read together daily. Your child’s teacher will also read the same book to them in class on the day it goes home. (RETURN THE BAG WITH BOOK BY THE FOLLOWING MONDAY SO THAT WE MAY GET THEM READY WITH A NEW BOOK AND TIP.)

The books are not lengthy, and the Tip Sheet is easy to follow and understand. There is also a link to a short video you may want to view before starting the story that explains how to use the tip.

Make this a weekly bedtime routine!

**PHASE TWO:** Berri Patch will send books home with your child weekly with a card requesting that you practice several of the reading Tips you learned and used during the 15 weeks of Phase One.

**PHASE THREE:** Berri Patch will provide a “Berri Book Bag” that contains fun activities for you to do with your child during the week – there will be games to play, fuzzy animals to cuddle, and more.

It is our hope that this Campaign will help build confidence in your ability to engage and teach your child, but more importantly, encourage you to read often with your children.

OVER...

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You may also want to visit the Campaign website at [www.FLORIDAGLR.net](http://www.FLORIDAGLR.net) to learn more about the program and the other resources that are available for parents/caregivers.

Reading *is* fundamental to everything, and your child's ability to read and understand what they have read is related to their success in all subjects.

This Literacy Campaign could not have come at a better time. Let's get reading!

Best wishes,

Virginia "Strawberri" Foley

**\*\*DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BOOK BAGS BACK BY THE FOLLOWING MONDAY SO THAT YOUR CHILD CAN RECEIVE THE NEXT BOOK AND TIP IN THE PROGRAM\*\***

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