

## **Reading Program for Parents in a Virtual Environment – Grades K-3**

This fall, school is happening virtually or in a variety of hybrid models, which means parents will need to be more involved in their young children’s learning than ever. In a series of workshops, Dr. Rachelle Kuehl of Virginia Tech will help parents of beginning readers learn to engage their children in activities to help them make progress in reading even while traditional school is on hold. Each session will include a handout for parents to refer to later as well as links to online resources such as word cards, alphabet games, and instructional videos. Parents can attend each stand-alone session live or view the recordings at their convenience.

### **Session 1. Letter/Sound Relationships**

Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

The most important first step to reading is knowing the sound made by each letter. In this session, parents will learn how to teach and reinforce the relationships between what letters look like and what sounds they make, then discuss how to apply this knowledge to reading and writing new words.

### **Session 2. High-Frequency Words**

Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Children need to be able to decode (or “sound out”) unfamiliar words, but this can be a taxing process. To make things easier, students can be taught to recognize “high-frequency” words by sight. In this session, Dr. Kuehl will share how to introduce and practice the most essential high-frequency words your new reader needs to learn.

### **Session 3. Fluency: Choosing and Practicing “Just Right” Stories**

Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Parents of beginning readers are often unsure when—and how much—to step in when their child struggles. In this session, parents will learn how to choose stories in the “just right” zone for their children to practice reading aloud as well as strategies for determining what to do when the new reader gets stuck on a word or sentence.

### **Session 4. Comprehension: Helping Your Child Understand the Story**

Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

In order to truly read, a child needs to be able to both decode the words and understand what is happening in the story. In this session, parents will learn how to build their child’s comprehension skills through fun and effective shared reading.