

RISE Arkansas

An informational newsletter exploring the Science of Reading in Arkansas

Celebrating the New Year!



Schools all over Arkansas are opening doors to eager children waiting to meet their **new** teachers and make **new** friends! One of the great things about going back to school IS everything is **new**: **new** shoes, **new** backpacks, and **new** opportunities!

This year in the RISE Newsletter, we will have a few **new** things to share with our readers and we will have several **new** sections.

NEW

in 2023!

- **NEW** look to the RISE Newsletter
- **NEW** Early Childhood Section
- Information on **NEW** literacy standards.
- Information on **NEW** things happening in education in Arkansas.

One thing that won't change is that page four will still have fun activities that promote reading fun for the entire family. We hope that each and every student in the state has an amazing school year filled with **new** and exciting learning and that parents will join us back here on the first of every month to deepen their knowledge about the science of reading and literacy instruction. Have a great first day back to school!

AUGUST 1, 2023 - ISSUE 30

 **IN THIS EDITION**

1 CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR!

2 ALL NEW!

3 NEW NEWS - EARLY CHILDHOOD

4 NEW YEAR, NEW YOU CHALLENGE!

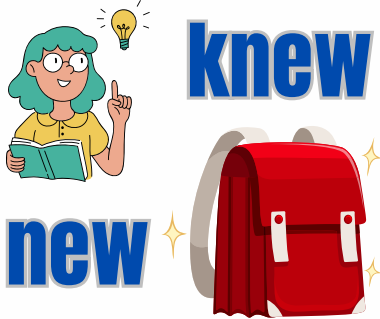
back to school edition



All new!

What is a homophone?

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different spellings and different meanings, like the words *knew* and *new*.



The word homophone comes from the Greek language. *Homos* means same. *Phone* means sound.

Here are a few more examples of homophones.

due dew
sale sail
cents sense
right write

Today, try and discover different examples of homophones with your child!

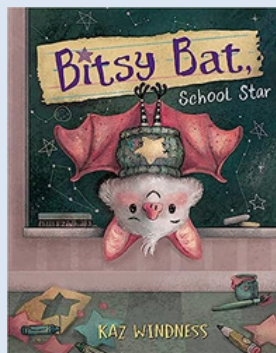
NEW

K-8 Learning Targets

The Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education has prepared guides for parents or guardians which outline [essential learning targets for students in grades K-8](#) for literacy, science, math, and social studies. Parents and guardians may print out these guides and post them on the refrigerator or keep one in the car for road trips. Educators may use these guides to provide parents with activities to work on with students at home. The learning target guides also have companion guides which provide one or more activities for each learning target.



Brand new back-to-school book!



Bitsy is a little bat with big star dreams of making friends at her new school. However, when she arrives, Bitsy doesn't feel like she fits in. Everyone tells Bitsy she's doing things wrong, so she tries harder... and ends up having a five-star meltdown. Now, Bitsy feels like a very small star and doesn't want to go back to school. With help from her family, Bitsy musters her courage, comes up with a new plan, and discovers that being a good friend is just one of the ways she shines bright! Make sure to check this book out on your next trip to the library!

New Newsletter News - Early Childhood Corner



R · I · S · E
Reading Initiative for Student Excellence
ARKANSAS

Our state is working hard to strengthen literacy instruction for all students, including children that aren't enrolled just yet! Since 2017, the RISE Initiative has focused on ensuring that all teachers understand the science of reading and how our brains learn to read, but did you know that Arkansas also has a PreK RISE Initiative? The goal of the Pre-K RISE Initiative is not to have students read before they enter Kindergarten but to lay down the essential groundwork needed to ensure students succeed when reading instruction starts. Each month, the RISE Newsletter will shine a spotlight on what parents of preschoolers can do to ensure students have a strong start in foundational literacy! If you don't have preschool students at home, we would love for you to forward this information to someone that does have little ones preparing for school.



New books every month!

Storytime is essential for brain development for children of all ages. Even before they can talk, children need to hear language to support brain development. Reading and telling stories with children is a great way to expose them to a rich variety of words. Each month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails a high-quality, age-appropriate book to all registered children, addressed to them, at no cost to the child's family. Each county in Arkansas has a local affiliate to help your family get signed up so your child can receive a new book each month until they turn five! [Click this link to find out more!](#) Make reading an everyday routine from the very beginning and your child will reap the benefits for a lifetime!

Tips to enhance storytime!

0 - 2 Years Old

Reading = snuggling! Read for short periods with your child on your lap or next to you. Being close to you is likely as important as the reading.



2 - 3 Years Old

Ask questions! Ask your child simple questions about the book. Examples: Where did Corduroy go when he explored the store?



3 - 5 Years Old

Think about it! Ask your child questions about the characters or the story that require predicting, imagining, or making inferences.



The New Year, New You Challenge!

What better time to make new habits and set new goals than August when it's time to get ready for going back to school? To ensure that children succeed in school, parents have to help their students create healthy habits and routines! This month, we want you to help your student complete the NEW YEAR, NEW YOU Challenge! Brainstorm one new habit your student wants to focus on to help them have a better school year. We have listed a few possible suggestions on the side that you might consider. Have your child check off each day they complete their goal and then make sure and celebrate as a family at the end of the month! Happy NEW school year!

Possible Goals

I will go to bed on time.



I will read for 30 minutes before bed.



I will limit my screen time.



I will eat healthy foods.



My NEW YEAR, NEW YOU Goal

I will _____

Start here →

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	14	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

