

Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “Rules at Home and School.”

I’m excited to begin our third unit in the Benchmark Advance program. As with the previous units, I am providing suggested activities you and your child can do together at home to build on the work we’re doing in class.

In this unit, students will discover the role rules play in all parts of their lives, and why following rules is important to everyone’s safety and well-being. For example, some rules at school, such as “Don’t run in the hallway,” keep everyone safe. Classroom rules, like “Listen to the teacher and each other,” encourage respect and allow everyone to learn. The selections include a variety of genres, including poems, realistic fiction, procedural texts such as lists, and an interview. Following rules and behaving responsibly are keys to a productive learning environment, making this a perfect unit to kick off our program. I hope it will spark some lively discussions at home.

I look forward to working together as partners this year. Should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child’s progress, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Rules at Home and School

In this unit, we read fiction and nonfiction about rules that we follow at school, at home, and on the field. We think in depth about the question “Why do we have rules?” Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about rules and to build on the skills and concepts your child is learning in school. Hopefully you’ll even have some fun, too, as you work together!

Topic Connection

Rules Scavenger Hunt

Rules are everywhere. Go on a scavenger hunt for rules in your home and neighborhood. Board games are an example of rules in your home. What other rules can your child find at home? Venture outdoors to continue your “Rule Hunt.” Help your child by pointing out examples, such as a stop sign or a traffic light. Talk about how these rules keep people safe. Invite your child to consider what would happen if there were no traffic rules.

Vocabulary Connection

Rules in Action

Your child is learning new words related to rules, such as **attention**, **clean**, **safe**, and **school**. You can support understanding of these words by noticing them in action at home. For example, point out that washing hands is a rule for staying clean. In that moment, ask your child to think of other “clean rules” you follow in the house. You can do the same for the word *safe*. For example, when your child buckles a seat belt, point out that these rules keep people safe. Then have your child think of other rules that keep us safe.

Comprehension Connection

You’ve Got Game!

In this unit, we’ll read about rules that players follow in different sports. One selection highlights rules for all different sports, and another presents a bulleted list of rules for soccer. The ability to identify and list main ideas, such as rules of a sport or game, is an important reading skill. Practice this skill by inviting your child to identify the rules of a favorite sport or game. Write down what your child says, and review the rules together. Then have your child illustrate each rule.

Phonics Connections

Word Family Fun

In our phonics instruction, your child is learning to recognize the short *i* sound, as in *sit*. On four index cards or small pieces of paper, write the letters *-it*, *-in*, *-id*, *-ip*. Shuffle the cards. Turn over the top card and say a word that ends with the two letters. For example, if the letters are *-in*, you might say *pin*. Then your child says another word. Keep going back and forth until you can’t think of any more words that end in those two letters. Then move on to the next card.