

Cub Scout Academics: Communicating



REQUIREMENTS

Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts may complete requirements in a family, den, pack, school, or community environment. Tiger Cubs must work with their parents or adult partners. Parents and partners do not earn loops or pins.

Belt Loop

Complete these three requirements:

- _____ 1. Tell a story or relate an incident to a group of people, such as your family, den, or members of your class.
- _____ 2. Write and send a letter to a friend or relative.
- _____ 3. Make a poster about something that interests you. Explain the poster to your den.

Academics Pin

Earn the Communicating belt loop and complete five of the following requirements:

- _____ 1. Write an original poem or story.
- _____ 2. Keep a journal of daily activities for at least seven days.
- _____ 3. Listen to a news story on television or the radio. Discuss the information with an adult.
- _____ 4. Go to the library. Use the card catalog or computer reference system to find a book, and then check it out.
- _____ 5. Read a book that has been approved by your parent or teacher. Discuss the book with an adult.

- _____ 6. With a friend, develop a skit. Perform it at a Scout meeting, family meeting, or school event.
- _____ 7. Learn the alphabet in sign language and demonstrate it to your den or an adult family member by showing how to sign 10 words. (See page 56.)
- _____ 8. With an adult, use the Internet to search for information on a topic of interest to you.
- _____ 9. Watch three television commercials and discuss the information in them with your parent or den leader.
- _____ 10. Read the directions for a new game. Explain to a family member or friend how to play it.
- _____ 11. Learn about “reading” materials for people who have poor vision or who are blind. Tell your den or an adult family member about what you have learned.
- _____ 12. While traveling, make a list of road signs, animals, or license plates that you see. Tell your den or an adult family member about what you have learned.

Resources

Check out your local and school library, as well as a local university or community college for resources on communicating.

International Reading Association

800 Barksdale Road
P.O. Box 8139
Newark, DE 19714-8139
Toll-free phone: 800-336-7323
Fax: 302-731-1057
Web site: <http://www.reading.org>

National Institute for Literacy (NIFL)

1775 I Street, NW, Suite 730
Washington, DC 20006-2401
Phone: 202-233-2025
Fax: 202-233-2050
Web site: <http://www.nifl.gov>

Habits of Good Writers

- Decide on the topic you are going to write about.
- Brainstorm—think of what you are going to say about the topic.
- Make up a plan for how you are going to organize your ideas on the topic.
- Write down your ideas as clearly as you can.
- Reread your first draft to be sure you have said everything you wanted to say as clearly as possible.
- Make any changes so that your reader will understand exactly what you are trying to say.
- Edit your work for spelling, punctuation, and correct grammar.

Habits of Good Readers

- Recognize the words on the page.
- Know the meanings of the words.
- Think about the ideas of the story.
- Use the information you already know to understand what you are reading.

A Fistful of Words

1. Pick a page of a book or magazine you want to read.
2. Look at each word on that page. Begin to make a “fist” of words you don’t recognize. For each word that you don’t recognize, bend one of your fingers down.
3. If all five fingers are down, that is, if you have made a fist before you come to the last word on that page, then you have a “fistful of words” that you do not know. That is a sign that you probably will need some help in reading that book.

Sources for Children With Reading or Learning Disabilities

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)

Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20542
Phone: 202-707-5100
Fax: 202-707-0712
Web site: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/nls>

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202-7100
Phone: 202-245-7459
Web site: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osep/index.html>

Learning Disabilities Association of America

4156 Library Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15234-1349
Phone: 412-341-1515 and 412-341-8077
Fax: 412-344-0224
Web site: <http://www.ldanatl.org>

American Sign Language

<http://www.lifeprint.com/>