

# 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/>