



## ***A Balanced Literacy Program***

- Interactive Read Aloud
- Shared Reading
- Guided Reading
- Book Clubs
- Independent Reading
- Write Aloud
- Shared Writing
- Guided Writing
- Independent Writing

# A Balanced Literacy Program

## Interactive Read Aloud

- Improves listening skills, builds vocabulary, aids reading comprehension, and motivates children to read.
- Is the single most influential factor in young children's success in learning to read.
- Daily read alouds with time given for talk about significant events, use of language, or other important aspects of instruction.

## Shared Reading

- Gives students practice in learning how print works in relation to the words they hear.
- Is an opportunity for students to see the text, observe their teacher reading with fluency and expression, and provides an arena for students to read along with the teacher.

## Guided Reading

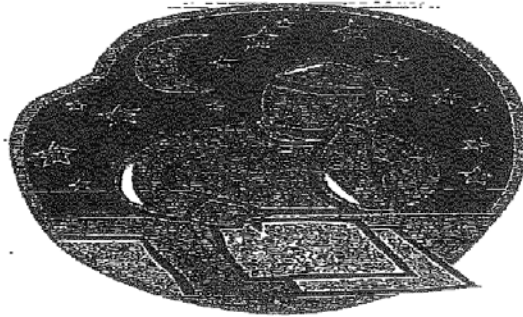
- Small group instruction where students read text at their "instructional-level" with explicit instruction and teacher support
- Enables students to develop and use strategies that will promote the construction of meaning.

## Book Clubs

- Increases students' enjoyment of reading
- Makes students aware of the value of their personal responses to what they read.
- Engages students in meaningful literary discussion.
- Demonstrates new ways of interpreting and analyzing text.
- Fosters critical thinking.

## Independent Writing

- Teacher provides daily mini lessons based on the needs of the writers.
- Students are engaged in the writing process.
- Students use a writer's notebook and writing folders to draft, revise, edit, and then publish pieces of work.
- Topics are self-selected, or at times assigned.
- Teachers conference with students to support and address individual needs.
- ➤ Students may have conferences with peers.
- There are often share sessions at the end of the writing workshop.



## Reading Strategies Developed Throughout the year

**Forming an Initial Understanding-** Evidence of a general understanding of the text.

- Is a basic understanding of the text as a whole demonstrated?
- Are the important elements of the text understood?
- Do the students notice if what they are reading doesn't make sense?

**Developing an Interpretation**

- Are clues or evidence from the text used to make inferences, draw conclusions, predict events, and infer motivations of the characters?
- Are initial understandings revised, reshaped, or deepened?
- Do the students respond to the author's ideas?

**Demonstrating a Critical Stance-** Evidence of stepping outside of the text, challenging the text, and making judgments of quality about parts of the text as a whole.

- Does the student challenge the text by disagreeing or questioning the author?
- Does the student make connections between the text and their own knowledge and experience?
- Does the student go beyond the text to judge its literacy quality?

This is something that I will revisit frequently throughout the year. This is great to review this with your child.

## Easy...Just-Right...Challenging Books

<b>Easy Books (E)</b>	<b>Just-Right Books (JR)</b>	<b>Challenging Books (C)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ It is usually fun to read easy books!</li> <li>❖ Read these books when you want to relax.</li> <li>❖ It does not take a lot of effort to understand books in this category.</li> <li>❖ These books can be read easily.</li> <li>❖ You easily understand what you are reading and understand the entire book very well.</li> <li>❖ These are often favorite books that you have read over and over.</li> <li>❖ You still enjoy reading these books from time to time.</li> <li>❖ There are no "bumpy" parts in these easy books.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ These books can be read smoothly.</li> <li>❖ There are only a few places where you have to slow down to figure out a word.</li> <li>❖ These books are interesting to you.</li> <li>❖ You easily understand what you are reading.</li> <li>❖ These books are enjoyable.</li> <li>❖ These are harder for you to read than easy books.</li> <li>❖ Books at this level will help you to become a better reader.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ These books are very difficult for you to read.</li> <li>❖ These are much harder for you to read than just-right books!</li> <li>❖ You have trouble reading many of the words in these harder books.</li> <li>❖ These books seem confusing.</li> <li>❖ Books that are too challenging are not good choices.</li> <li>❖ These books are too difficult for you to enjoy right now, but maybe another time these same books will be easy for you to read!</li> </ul>

The books you are choosing to read most of the time should be "Just Right" for you. Choosing just-right books to read most of the time will help you become a better reader.