



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

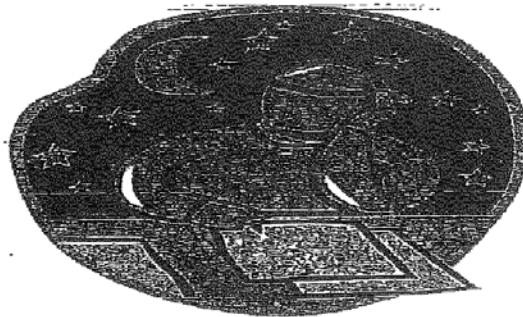
- Small group instruction where students read text at their "instructional-level" with explicit instruction and teacher support
- Enables students to develop and use strategies that will promote the construction of meaning.

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 with your child.

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

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

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.