

Classroom Practices in the Primary Grades

Keep a Classroom Library

Maintain a classroom library so that students can select books quickly and easily. Ask your school librarian to help you choose a collection of books that you can check out to your classroom. Select new books regularly, and keep popular titles longer so your students can read and reread their favorites. Also take advantage of book clubs and used bookstores to build your collection.

Color Code Books

Label Accelerated Reader books with colored dots to help young students find books within their ZPD. For example, you might label books at a 1.0–1.5 level with a yellow dot, at a 1.6–2.0 level with a red dot, and so on.

Set Up Activity Centers

Use one center as a location for teaching reading skills. Set up volunteers at another center and dedicate it to read alouds. At a third center, station an older student or parent volunteer to help students take quizzes.

Build Reading Skills with Read To, Read With, and Independent Reading Practice

Be sure to involve students in all three types of reading practice. Emergent readers will spend most of their reading time listening to stories and looking at picture books. As their skills develop, pair students with peer or adult tutors for Read With practice. Later, as students start reading independently, schedule short periods of independent practice time, along with plenty of Read To and Read With practice.

Have Students Quiz the Same Way They Read

Make sure students take Reading Practice Quizzes the same way they read books. If you read a book *to* a student, also read the quiz *to* him. If you read *with* a student, make sure the student reads the quiz *with* you or a volunteer. Students can also use Recorded Voice Quizzes to quiz on books that were read to or with them.

Monitor Reading Practice

Keep an eye on your students' reading practice by reviewing reading logs and TOPS Reports every day. Set up a simple book checkout system for your classroom library so that you can also see if the books individual students are selecting are a good match.

Recruit Volunteers and Quiz Monitors

Volunteers are essential to reading practice in the primary grades. Parents, retirees, even older students can read to and with students and help them take quizzes. Provide training sessions for volunteers to familiarize them with Accelerated Reader, ZPDs, student reading logs, and other classroom routines.