



Guided Reading

What is it?

Guided reading is a form of group instruction in which a teacher helps children to develop understanding for the story while prompting them to apply strategies they will need to become independent readers. A group consists of two to five students with similar reading abilities. Emergent, early and early transitional readers read the entire book independently. Late transitional readers, read the book silently. During guided reading, the teacher responds to children's reading behaviors with questions that focus their attention on problem-solving activity.

Why should I use it?

As children read texts at their instructional level, they learn how to integrate cues and orchestrate strategies. Guided reading is important because:

- It helps children understand and explore the meaning of the story
- It enables teachers to observe children's reading behaviors
- It provides a supportive context for children to practice reading strategies

- It matches children's reading ability to appropriate reading materials
- It promotes thinking skills and problem-solving activity among students with similar needs
- It encourages meaningful and educational dialogues about the story and the reading process.

Advantages of Guided Reading

- It groups children with similar needs to specify selected books at an instructional level
- It helps children to develop an understanding and an appreciation for the story
- It promotes problem-solving conversations among children
- It demonstrates reading strategies and language conventions in context
- It provides opportunities for children to apply strategies and to develop competence through practice
- It exposes children to multiple ways of responding to different forms of literature
- It demonstrates questions that can become a structural framework for understanding various literary styles.