

# Literacy Support Groups



Early Literacy Training Center  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
2801 South University Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
501-569-8613  
[www.arliteracymodel.com](http://www.arliteracymodel.com)

# What are Literacy Support Groups?

- ◆ A supplemental short-term literacy support for low-achieving students in grades K-3 in a small-group program
- ◆ Intervention occurs before confusions are habituated and self-esteem falls
- ◆ The goal is to reduce the number of learners who have difficulty with literacy learning and the cost of these learners to educational systems.

# Features of Literacy Support Groups

- ◆ Literacy support for K-3 students in a small group setting
- ◆ Quality instruction delivered daily by a highly-trained teacher
- ◆ Meaningful literacy experiences that provide children with both the skill and desire to become proficient and lifelong learners
- ◆ Supplemental to quality classroom instruction

# Features of Literacy Support Groups

- ◆ Balanced Literacy Instruction in reading and writing
- ◆ Materials include developmentally appropriate literature for the children's instructional reading level
- ◆ On-going assessment of performance through systematic observation of authentic literacy behaviors
- ◆ Instructional practices based on reading theory and research to meet standards

# Features of Literacy Support Groups

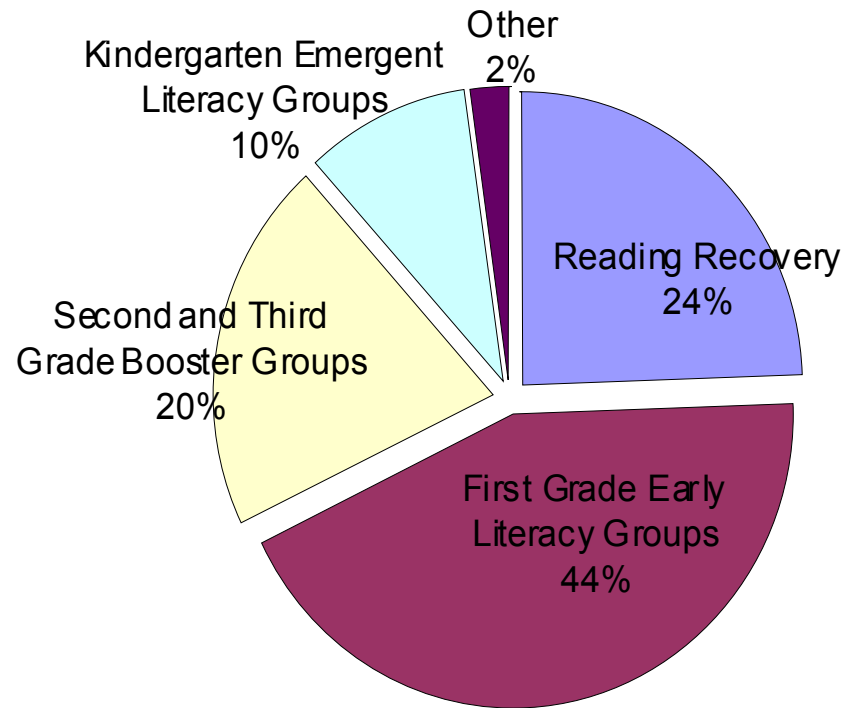
- ◆ Teachers receive on-going professional development and support
- ◆ Decisions made in cooperation with the school's literacy team
- ◆ Children develop self-generating oral and written language competencies that enable them to become independent readers and writers.

# Who are Literacy Group Students?

- ◆ **First graders** needing extra support in reading and writing in addition to classroom instruction are placed in **Early Literacy Groups**. First graders are served daily in 45-minute lessons.
- ◆ **Second and third graders** needing short-term services are placed in flexible "**Booster**" **Groups** for eight to ten weeks. Services can continue beyond 10 weeks, if needed, to meet their instructional needs.
- ◆ **Kindergarten students** that are needing additional support in the development of oral and written language are placed in **Emergent Literacy Groups**.

# Who are Literacy Group Students?

- ◆ The graph illustrates the average distribution of children being served by each Reading Recovery/Literacy teacher.
- ◆ Each teacher can serve approximately 50 children per year in supplemental literacy support.



# Are students assessed in Literacy Groups?

Formal and informal assessments:

- ◆ Standardized tests
- ◆ Systematic observation
- ◆ Running records of text reading
- ◆ Writing samples
- ◆ Anecdotal records
- ◆ Checklists and rubrics

# Are students assessed in Literacy Groups?

- ◆ Data are analyzed to observe the changes over time in literacy development and the levels of proficiency the child exhibits in reading and writing.

## Does Literacy Group instruction reduce the number of at-risk readers?

- ◆ Year-end assessments show that 70% of at-risk children in first grade literacy groups reach a proficient level in reading and writing, reducing the need for additional intervention in subsequent grades.

# What are the components of Literacy Group Lessons?

- ◆ Familiar, Independent Reading
- ◆ Shared Reading
- ◆ Letter and Word Work
- ◆ Read Aloud
- ◆ Interactive Writing
- ◆ Write Aloud
- ◆ Independent Writing
- ◆ Revising and Editing, Writing Process
- ◆ Guided Reading

# How do the lesson components promote reading achievement?

Children learn effective problem-solving strategies based on:

- ◆ Phonemic awareness and Phonics
- ◆ Word Identification Strategies
- ◆ Fluency
- ◆ Vocabulary and Background Knowledge
- ◆ Comprehension Strategies
- ◆ Motivation and Engagement

# In Conclusion

“Some people there are who, being grown, forget the horrible task of learning to read. It is perhaps the greatest single effort that the human undertakes, and he must do it as a child. . . For thousands of years these humans have existed and they have only learned this trick, this magic, in the final ten-thousand of the thousand-thousand.”

John Steinbeck