Classroom Practices: The 10 Most Important

Get Started

1. Understand Accelerated Reader, STAR Reading™ and STAR Early Literacy™.

Know how the software works, be familiar with STAR assessments and AR Reading Practice Quizzes™, and understand key concepts related to points, book level, interest level, and reading level.

2. Find the zone of proximal development (ZPD).

Use a STAR assessment or another standardised test, the AR Target-Setting Chart, and your best judgment to identify the level of reading practice that is appropriate for each student. Make adjustments based on student performance on Reading Practice Quizzes. An average of 85 percent indicates the student is reading within a good learning zone.

3. Schedule time for reading practice.

Make guided independent reading practice a priority. Research shows that students need at least thirty minutes of practice (20 minutes in secondary school) per day to accelerate growth.

Establish Routines and Monitor Progress

4. Use the Student Reading Log.

Have students keep a record of their reading practice. Reproducible forms can be printed from the software.

5. Take Status of the Class daily.

Check in with students every day to monitor their progress, guide book selection, and reinforce achievement. Review Student Reading Logs and TOPS Reports and have brief conversations with students to see how they are doing. Use the Status of the Class Record Sheet to keep track of which students you have spoken with.

6. Check the TOPS Report immediately.

Have the software print the TOPS Report after quizzes are taken. Use it to motivate students, monitor their performance, and help them choose their next book. Send TOPS Reports home so that parents can see how their child is doing.

7. Review the Diagnostic Report weekly.

Use reading practice data to plan instruction and intervention. Look for diagnostic codes, which alert you to students who may be having trouble. Then analyse a struggling student's reading history with the reading log or Student Record Report.

Diagnose Problems, Set Targets and Motivate Students

8. Intervene promptly to ensure successful reading.

Be alert to problems and act on them immediately. Teach and reinforce comprehension strategies. Adjust the level or length of book a student is reading, and provide other kinds of support as needed, such as a reading buddy or peer tutor.

9. Set student reading targets.

Motivate students and personalise practice by setting individualised targets for average percent correct, points, and book level. Refer to the Target-Setting Chart for guidelines. Enter targets in the software so that you and your students can keep track of progress.

10. Create a system of motivators.

Make success visible with class and school displays that acknowledge achievement of individual targets. Read books aloud and promote discussion to introduce students to the joys of reading.