

# Classroom Practices in the Primary Years

## Tips for Implementing

### Keep a Classroom Library

Maintain a classroom library to help students find books more quickly and easily. Book clubs and second-hand bookshops offer an affordable way to build your collection. If possible, take out a number of books from your school library to keep in your classroom. To hold students' interest, select new books regularly, keeping a few titles longer so your students can re-read their favorites.

### Colour Code Books

Label Accelerated Reader books with coloured dots to help students find books in their ZPD ranges. For example, you might code 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. This makes it easier for students to select books at the right level.

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

Emergent readers 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.

### Quiz the Same Way You Read

Make sure students take Reading Practice Quizzes the same way they read books. In other words, if you read a book to a student, also read the quiz to him. If you Read With a student, read the quiz the same way.

### Monitor Reading Practice

Offer guidance as students choose books to make sure choices are appropriate. Monitor reading practice by reviewing the emergent or beginning reading log and TOPS Reports. Set up a simple book borrowing system for your classroom library to help you monitor student book selection.

### Recruit Volunteers

If you can, enlist the help of volunteers. Parents and grandparents can be an invaluable resource. They will need to be involved in training so that they have a good understanding of the system.