

Simple ideas about reading to children who are reading below grade level

First of all and most important, we are to make reading **fun and interesting**. The children who read below grade level already feel/think they are not up to the level of some of their classmates. They can feel inferior, like “reading is too hard and not fun” as a first grader told me last year. We want to change those ideas, by reading individually, encourage the readers, and those who cannot read by encouragement of their own pace and abilities.

For the kiddos who are not reading at all, and I expect the first graders at the beginning of the year, that is what we will encounter, let’s encourage their brains first. Let them pick out a book of their interest, talk about the cover of the book and ask what they think the book will be about. Before reading each page, talk about the pictures, then read the page.

If they are reading as third graders hopefully are, don’t over correct. Build up their confidence first. Sometimes you read one sentence, and then they read a sentence, so they can hear your voice change, something new readers tend not to do.

Each child is different, what works for one may not work for the other. First develop a relationship with the student, especially if you are a regular reader.

At end of reading time, you will have an individual notebook to document the books read, if you read to the student or they read to you. Each week, note if there is some progress, some different ideas, etc. In that way, when you are absent and a sub is used, they will know a little about the student you read with. There is also a log we would like you to fill out stating the book, pages read, etc for each book you use for the student.

You can also develop a “word bank”, maybe at the end of the notebook, and write words or let the student write words learned that week. Then at the beginning of the next week, review those words first before reading.

I have stars that you can give out if the student needs encouragement. The students are able to pick out a sticker each week also. Every third week or so, the student can pick out a book to take home and own, to encourage home reading.

Again, have fun. If there are any concerns or issues, let me know.

And thanks so much for volunteering to help the kiddos develop a love of reading.