

Types of Reading at School

Students are asked to read in a variety of ways at school and can be practicing these methods at home to continue to improve their reading skills. It is important for readers to be able to read on their own, follow along in a book that is being read, be able to listen to and understand something that is read to them, as well as read orally with a group of readers. Below are some of the common types of reading we use at school on a regular basis.

Guided Reading - Small groups of children read a book picked by the teacher. Teachers use assessment tools such as the benchmark reading assessments, SRI test, and NWEA data to help them find the instructional level and needs of each child. Students are grouped based on their instructional level and needs. The groups are flexible and change frequently as students' reading growth and needs change. Guided reading groups typically meet 2 to 4 times a week.

Independent Reading - Students read books on their own that they have chosen, sometimes with teacher guidance, sometimes without. This may also be reading a text book or reading selection that goes along a topic being studied in class. In that case, the text may or may not be at their exact instructional reading level. Students are taught how to determine if a book they select to read on their own is "just right" and are expected to spend their own reading time with books that are appropriate for them.

Reading Aloud - The teacher reads a book or passage aloud to the students. The students are active participants in the reading. The teacher stops at significant points in the book to ask students for comments and invites brief discussion. Students might be asked to analyze the style of writing, infer what is happening based on the text or illustrations, make predictions, or think about why the author wrote the book.

Shared or Choral Reading - Students and the teacher have a copy of the same text. It could be projected on the white board, copied onto chart paper, or could be a shared text book. The students follow along while the teacher reads the text aloud. The students may be invited to join the teacher with reading the text or to take over at times. This is an excellent way for the whole class to read the same text with support from the teacher. It also helps students practice reading fluently and accurately.

While parents are not trained to conduct guided reading lessons, you can help your child read independently, read aloud to them, and read a shared text with them. Please see your child's classroom teacher if you have further questions about how to support your child with reading at home.