

Dear Parents,

Sorry. It's me again. Now I will explain an idea I have that will help you support your child in reading at home based on your child's needs. So far, all that has been expected is a logging of minutes read nightly on the Homework Log. If this is working for you, then you still have that option, but I would like to present several other options you may choose for your child that may offer additional support.

As a parent, I did not want the school making decisions about how my child reads at home, for I felt it was up to me to support my child in reading. (Choose **OPTION 1** if you would like to continue to log minutes weekly instead of the options listed below.) I do know, however, that many parents like to have a more structured format for holding their children accountable for reading at home. I have also noticed over the years that parents work with their children and provide support in reading instruction based on what they experienced as children from their own parents. As a result, parents who received very little instruction when they were children do not know how to help their own children learn to read and comprehend. Like many parents, I was fortunate in that my parents did read to me quite a bit when I was a toddler and through elementary school, so this came easy to me when I read to my own children. As a result, both of my children are excellent readers which has helped them be very successful in school.

OPTION 2: Over the last several years, I have noticed that more and more children are not reading fluently or with expression. They lack comprehension skills that are required in order to be considered a "reflective reader" which means a reader who utilizes multiple thinking strategies to comprehend what is read. I attended a district training several years ago and read several books about helping children become reflective readers. Using what I have learned, I created eight reading activities a parent can choose from to complete with his/her child on a nightly basis that will encourage fluency and comprehension skills. Parents of children who are below grade level on the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) and who are reading at a Level 1 or 2 on the Oral Reading Fluency Assessment (see data folder for your child's information) might consider this option. It would require you reading with your child nightly and participating in a short reading exercise.

OPTION 3: Another option is to have your child receive a copy of a weekly reading selection that has a full page passage on the front and questions on the back that should be answered and turned in on Fridays (or the last day of the school week). The selections I have are written on a third grade level and require your child to read the entire passage out loud to a parent each night to encourage reading fluently and with expression. Children who are reading at a third grade level on the DRA (Levels 30 and 34), and who need extra practice with oral reading fluency (Level 1 or 2 on the Oral Reading Fluency assessment) would benefit most from this type of assignment. The amount of time read can be used towards the nightly reading minute requirement as well.

OPTION 4: Finally, if your child is an advanced reader, you might want to consider the "Genre Bingo" option. This encourages children who are reading at a DRA level 34 or 38 and a Level 4 on the Oral Reading Fluency assessment to explore many categories or genres of literature to further enhance their reading experiences. All that is required is to read books of different genres and record their titles and parent signature to verify that the books have been read.

Please select the option that most suits your needs and those of your child by placing a checkmark next to your choice below. I will clip the recording sheet with directions in your child's homework folder soon. As an incentive, I will reward students who fulfill the requirements of Options 2, 3, or 4 listed on each sheet with a homework pass!

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

OPTION 3

OPTION 4

Child's Name

Parent Signature