

# Home Reading Program



This booklet details a step by step program designed to help you create and implement a successful home reading program in your classroom. It also includes a handout for parents, a reading log and reminder sheets. This program is very popular and successful, as it improves the reading skills of your students and provides a means to involve parents with their child's education.

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## **Introduction**

One of the most important jobs of an elementary teacher is to teach our students to become strong, lifelong readers. Not only do we need to teach reading skills, but to continually reinforce and improve these skills. The “Home Reading Program” is an excellent way to reinforce reading skills, develop a love of reading and involve parents.

## **Program Outline**

The Home Reading Program consists of the students in your classroom borrowing books, reading them to a parent or older adult and recording what they have read in a reading log. Every time the child reads ten books, they are rewarded with a small treat.

The program initially takes some work to set up, but once it is up and running it is extremely successful and very popular with both parents and students. The children’s reading skills increase significantly once they have started on this program. As the children’s reading and writing skills improve, the program becomes more and more enjoyable for both the children and their parents. Many parents have commented to me they are sad to see the program end with the school year. It is a nice bonding time with their child, and it gives the parents a concrete plan to help with their child’s education.

## **Program Components**

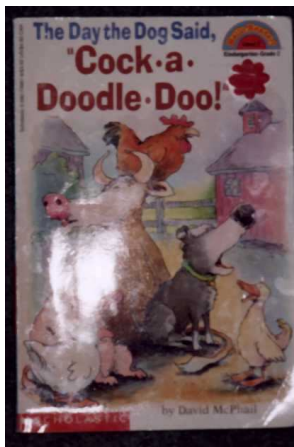
### **Book Collection**

To begin, you need a good selection of books. I have acquired the books for my program through a number of means. Every school I have been at has been very good about purchasing books for the program from their budget. I also ask for donations of leveled or phonic type books from people whose children have outgrown these books, through the newsletter that goes home from our school. I choose the free books I get from the children’s book orders from Scholastic Books Ltd. carefully to suit my program. After a few years, I have more than enough books and now only need to buy new books to replace those that have been read beyond repair or lost. Books are not lost very often, but when they are the child is charged \$3 to pay for a new

one. I refund the money if the book eventually comes back in good condition.

These books are only for the home reading program. I have a separate book shelf in the room with theme books, etc. for the children to read first thing in the morning, during reading practice and free time.

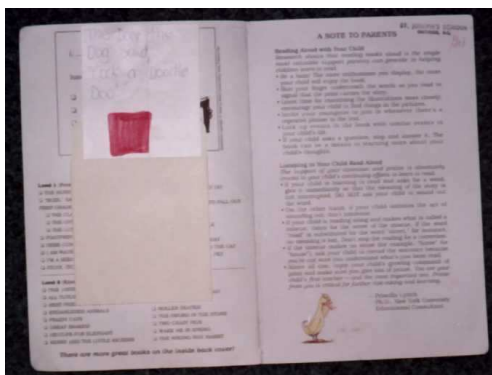
The next step in an early primary classroom, is to sort the books into three basic levels. In a young primary grade, the teacher will want some control over which level the children are reading at. Some weaker readers will love to take home the most difficult books, resulting in frustration for everyone. You may not have to do this step for an older grade, instead just provide a large selection of books for the children to choose from.



To differentiate between the three levels I tape a small sticker on the cover of each book. The different stickers are yellow (level one), red (level two) or blue (level three).

The three levels are kept separately in large plastic tubs. I have two tubs of books for each level. This allows the children to pull

out a tub, peruse the books with a few of their classmates, and then put the tubs back, avoiding the whole class jostling around a bookshelf.



After the books have been separated by level and each book has a sticker on it to indicate the level, then the books need to have a library envelope glued to the inside. I put a card in the envelope with the title of the book printed on it, and a small circle colored on in the appropriate color to indicate the book's level.

# The Home Reading Program

Dear Parents;

Helping children to become strong, lifelong readers is a top priority for parents and teachers. As a result, it is important that parents and teachers work together as a team to encourage the development of reading skills in our students. This handout is designed to give you suggestions of how to promote reading skills with your child at home, and to provide an overview of the "Home Reading Program" that I will be implementing in order for us to work together to increase your child's reading skills.

The importance of reading with your child cannot be stressed enough. Children should be read with from infancy, because children gain so much knowledge about reading through having stories read with them. Children who have been read with all their lives have so many advantages when they enter school. They know which way to hold a book to read, and which part of the book contains the text. These children know that print goes from left to right, and they know the sounds that many letters make from hearing their favorite stories read over and over. Therefore, reading aloud with your child is very important.

If conditions are set up in the house for the child to have some free time every day to read, and they are surrounded by their own books that interest them, children will want to read. However, they need loving adults to support these reading efforts. As basic as it sounds, the truth is that *a child*

## Reading Log

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Opinion:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Comments:**

Treat  
Day! 😊

40



## Reading Log

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Opinion:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Comments:**

