

The Guided Reading Lesson - How often? How long?

The length of a guided reading lesson varies given the text being read, the size of the group, and the teaching focus for the day.

Early to emergent readers:

These groups will meet daily for short periods of time. It is possible that the lesson will last 15 minutes and that a new text piece will be shared each day. Children will discuss before the book is read, they will “read” the text, and they will work in word level activities as a group. A short response to the text could be planned for independent seat work to be completed after the group time. Children might reread previous 4 texts on Friday and choose their favorite.

Developing readers:

These groups may meet less often, but for a longer period of time (25-30 minutes). A new text level is introduced every other day with an independent response to the text to be completed away from the table. These children are expected to be reading from familiar text every day and should be practicing word level skills daily. The guided reading lesson will become more involved as text levels increase. Word level work will be included as well as more discussion about language structures and meaning.

Transitional readers:

These groups are becoming more independent, but still need to work on literary structures, varied pieces of literature, and strategies for solving more difficult vocabulary within the text they are reading. Stories may take more than one day to read (30 minutes - 2-3 times per week). Comprehension strategies are becoming more and more important as the use of supportive illustrations lessens. Use of graphic organizers for mapping out new story structures will begin. Student response will involve more independent writing.

Fluent readers:

The beginning discussions for the text piece are critical in these group lessons. They shape the ownership and motivation for the readers. Students may read one text piece over several days. The first lesson will be the longest. Subsequent meetings will take less time as the focus will be more directed to the task. Example: Day 1 - introduction; begin reading (30 minutes). Day 2 - Meet as a group to go over story thus far and assign next chapters(10 minutes). Day 3 - Teaching focus - use of punctuation within the text. Continue reading. (15 minutes). Day 4 - Discussion of story with story map response (20 minutes)

Ellen A. Thompson, Inc.