

Components of a Balanced Literacy Program ~ All of the following contribute to producing literate citizens of the 21st Century.

Reading Aloud: Teacher reads selection aloud to students

- Provides adult model of fluent reading
- Develops sense of story/text
- Develops vocabulary
- Encourages prediction
- Builds a community of readers
- Develops active listening

Shared Reading: Teacher and students read text together

- Demonstrates awareness of text
- Develops sense of story or content
- Promotes reading strategies
- Develops fluency and phrasing
- Increases comprehension
- Encourages politeness and respect

Guided Reading: Teacher introduces a selection at student's instructional level

- Promotes reading strategies
- Increases comprehension
- Encourages independent reading
- Expands belief in own ability

Independent Reading: Students read independently

- Encourages strategic reading
- Increases comprehension
- Supports writing development
- Extends experiences with a variety of written texts
- Promotes reading for enjoyment and information
- Develops fluency
- Fosters self-confidence by reading familiar and new text
- Provides opportunities to use mistakes as learning opportunities

Modeled/Shared Writing: Teacher and students collaborate to write text; teacher acts as scribe

- Develops concepts of print
- Develops writing strategies
- Supports reading development
- Provides model for a variety of writing styles
- Models the connection among and between sounds, letters, and words
- Produces text that students can read independently
- Necessitates communicating in a clear and specific manner

Interactive Writing: Teacher & students compose together using a "shared pen" technique in which students do some of the writing

- Provides opportunities to plan and construct texts
- Increases spelling knowledge
- Produces written language resources in the classroom
- Creates opportunities to apply what has been learned

Independent Writing: Students write independently

- Strengthens text sequence
- Develops understanding of multiple uses of writing
- Supports reading development
- Develops writing strategies
- Develops active independence