

The Four Blocks Approach

The Four Blocks Approach was developed to incorporate four different approaches in teaching children to read. The four different approaches are:

- 1. Read Aloud
- 2. Vocabulary
- 3. Guided Reading
- 4. Guided Writing

- Read Aloud
- Children who are read to, regularly, often become readers. Readers are not persons who can read but rather persons who enjoy reading. Gone are the days when children are only read to at home.
- In the Read Aloud Block children are given the opportunity to choose the book they want to listen to.

- The purpose of this block is to:
- Activate students' prior knowledge
- Expose children to different language pattern
- Develop student's vocabulary
- Develop their listening skills

- Some Activities that have great effect on the students in this block are:
- Reading and discussion of title author and illustrator
- Children giving their predictions about the story and story outcome
- Teacher modeling fluent reading (pronunciation, enunciation and phrasing)
- Children giving their opinion of the story

Vocabulary

- This block ensures that students read, spell and use words correctly. They use different strategies to decode words as they spell and read.
- This block consists of two categories:
 - A. Sight Words
 - B. Decoding Phonics

- Activities for sight words:
- -Matching of pictures with words
- -Spying of words
- - Examining the properties of the words (long, short, high, low letters, beginning and ending of the words)
- -Playing games with the words
- -Teacher giving clues to identify words

Guided Reading

- In this block the teacher is responsible for choosing material for children to read and a purpose for reading. The teacher then guides the students as they use reading strategies needed for that material and that purpose.

- Teachers provide guidance in a variety of whole class and small group. Guided Reading is always focused on comprehension. Children learn to predict what might happen or what they might learn. They learn about the story elements of characters, setting, and plot, and they learn how to organize and compare information learned from informational text.

Guided Writing

- Another way children learn to read is by writing. Some children experience their first successful reading by reading their own writing.
- In guided writing children there is a combination of writing and illustrating that leads to a published work. Children's writing samples, prior to the publication stage, serve as a rich portrait of how well young minds are applying important language skills and strategies, as well as what they know about words.

The Writing Block Cont'd

- The Writing Block provides children with a model of the work of writers.
- In this block, students are engaged in various writing activities from starting a new piece, finishing a piece, revising, editing, or illustrating.
- Another component includes the publication of the students' final pieces.
- Students use the Author's Chair, to share their writing and respond to each other's writing at various stages in its development.