

Use of PM books to develop children's ability to read with comprehension

School	Inglehurst Junior School	
Reading Champion	Emily Harvey	
Contact email	eharvey@inglehurst-jun.leicester.sch.uk	
Who was targeted?	Approximately 30 pupils in Years 3,4,5,6	
Outline of project:		
<p>We identified that approximately 1/3 of pupils in each year group had a significant disparity between their reading accuracy and reading comprehension skills. This became particularly apparent during guided reading sessions and reading assessments. Although pupils could often 'read' the words, their ability to use their knowledge and strategies for linguistic comprehension was limited. We were concerned that if children were unable to understand what they were reading, they would not choose to read for pleasure in later life. We chose to use the PM scheme of books to support this area of development as they offer a gradual, finely levelled system of texts and also present many opportunities for reading comprehension development.</p>		
Overview of the timelines, additional resources etc.		
<p>During the Spring term 2016 we ran a pilot group of 15 Year 3 pupils who we had assessed to be working below age related expectations in reading (LA guidance is PM level 23-25 for a Y3 pupil). The children were PM benchmarked and put on the corresponding PM level of books. They read to a member of staff every day and also took books home. Parents and staff were given examples of questions to ask children as they read, to check their comprehension. Children were re-benchmarked and moved to the next PM level when staff assessed their reading accuracy and comprehension to be aligned.</p> <p>On average, pupils made 4.6 PM levels of progress in 5 weeks.</p> <p>A further outcome of this trial was that previously reluctant readers became motivated and interested in reading. Pupils stated that they enjoyed the books as they understood the texts and were able to talk about them. Half term school assessments showed these children were more successful at accessing reading comprehension tests as they had developed their reading for meaning skills. Children read with increased fluency, utilising effective cognitive strategies to improve comprehension or repair it when it broke down.</p>		
Impact		
<p>At the start of the Autumn term, all pupils were PM benchmarked. If through this assessment, a pupil was reading below their age related expectation level (as recommended by Leicester LA) they were placed on the corresponding benchmarked PM level. They then read to an adult every day in order to check their reading accuracy and comprehension is progressing. Regular running records are taken to ensure pupils are on the correct PM level. Once a pupil is reading at the level relevant to their age related expectation, they progress on to other reading schemes and books used in school. Whilst pupils are on the PM book scheme, the PM guided reading cards are used in daily literacy lessons, to promote discussion and development of reading comprehension skills.</p> <p>The number of pupils reading at A.R.E is steadily increasing across all year groups.</p>		
Lessons learnt – advice for other schools		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils on the PM reading books need to read 1:1 to an adult at least 3 times a week –ideally every day, for accelerated progress to be made. • You need a wide range of PM books on every level. • Staff need to be trained on how to benchmark pupils accurately. 		
Estimate of costs	2 x PM bench mark kit 1 (1 for Upper KS2, 1 for lower KS2) 2 x PM bench mark kit 2 (1 for Upper KS2, 1 for lower KS2) 2 x PM guided reading cards sets PM reading books (levels 15-30) 36 books on each level 540 books @ approx. £5.89 each Total:	£500 £500 £2480 £3180.60 £6660.60