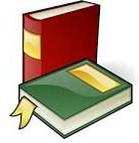


Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) - What Parents Need to Know



Good readers enjoy reading, have favorite books, authors, and genres. They talk about books and recommend their favorites as well as construct meaning as they read and share their understanding of what they read. (Developmental Reading Assessment Teacher Guide, 2006)

The DRA2 Assessment enables teachers to systematically observe, record, and evaluate changes in student reading performance. DRA2 provides teachers with information that helps them determine each student's independent reading level and identify what the student needs to learn next to grow as a reader.

Assessments are conducted during one-on-one reading conferences as children read specially selected assessment texts and communicate their understanding of what they read.

Students in all grades are given the assessment at least two times a year with an additional Progress Monitoring assessment. Check with your child's teacher for specific dates.

Tips for Parents

- Read and reread books aloud to your child even through middle school.
- Set aside time nightly for your child to read independently. In younger years, listen to your child read.
- Talk about the books you read together and the books he/she reads independently.
- Rereading books helps to increase reading fluency.
- Encourage your child to use expression as he/she reads.
- Reading a variety of material helps to build vocabulary.
- Talk to your child about the reading strategies they learn from their reading lessons at school. Encourage them to use those when reading.
- Ask your child to write.



Questions and Answers

What are the benefits of the DRA assessment?

DRA assessments support the learning standards. The results provide teachers with accurate information on a student's current independent reading level, identify needs for growth, and find areas where growth has occurred.

Is DRA the only assessment my child is given?

DRA is only one assessment your child takes throughout the year. Other assessments give the teacher feedback on what comprehension strategies your child is successfully using or needs more help on to better understand what is read.

How do I help my successful reader?

If your child is above grade level in reading, encourage him/her to expand across new genres to increase vocabulary and possibly increase the length of books chosen.