



Tips & Tricks

for Small-Group Reading Instruction

Jill Eggleton makes small-group reading as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Choose texts that engage students' interest, curiosity, and heart.
2. Make sure all students can read the text with 90–94% accuracy.
3. Use the strategies and sample prompts below to support comprehension, language & vocabulary, decoding, and social-emotional learning in every small-group lesson.

Comprehension, Language & Vocabulary

Strategies

Let students do most of the talking.

Ask open-ended questions with more than one right answer.

Use a variety of questions that require inferential thinking.

Encourage students to ask their own questions.

Sample Prompts

- *What do you think will happen? Why?*
- *Who/what/where/when/why/how do you think...?*
- *Were there any words you didn't know the meaning of or how to say?*
- *What did you learn about ___? What words told you that?*
- *What questions can you ask about this page?*
- *What questions would you ask this character?*
- *What questions could you ask about this information?*

Decoding Strategies

Strategies

Scaffold prompts and strategies according to students' reading level.

Reinforce phonics and phonemic awareness skills in the context of reading.

Remind students to apply the sounds, spellings, and word parts they have learned to their reading and writing.

Sample Prompts

- **Initial sounds:** *Let's work out the first sound. What's a word that would fit that starts with that sound?*
- **CVC words:** *Every letter in this word has its own sound. Say the sound for each letter. Now blend the sounds together.*
- **Digraphs:** *The **sh** sounds like /sh/. Now work out the other sounds from left to right.*
- **Sounds and spellings:** *Find the words with the /sh/ sound. Write them and underline the /sh/ sound.*
- **Multisyllabic words:** *Say the sound of each syllable. Then put the syllables together.*
- **Word parts:** *What prefix/suffix/root word do you see in this word?*

Social-Emotional Learning

Strategies

Choose stories and nonfiction topics that engage students' emotions.

Engage in conversations about the text that help students learn from the characters and situations.

Sample Prompts

- *How do you think this character feels? Why?*
- *Have you ever felt that way? What happened?*
- *Why do you think the character(s) did that? What could they have been thinking?*
- *What do you think the character(s) could have learned? What have you learned from this story?*



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