

RANDOLPH  
COUNTY  
SCHOOL  
SYSTEM

# K -1 LITERACY BLOCK

**Randolph County School System**  
**Two Hour Balanced Literacy Block**  
**K-1**

**Whole Group Mini Lesson/Shared Reading**

- 5 days a week
- 20-30 minutes in length
- Whole group format
- Active student participation
- *Vision - Intentional teaching of comprehension strategies using complex text in which the teacher models and gradually releases responsibility to the student*

**Guided Reading/Independent Reading**

- 5 days a week
- At least 60 minutes in length
- Small group format
- 15 - 20 minute sessions
- Lowest group is met with daily
- Other students are working independently with/on meaningful tasks
- Students build independent reading stamina
- *Vision - Intentional teaching of decoding, vocabulary and comprehension strategies using instructional level text*

**Writing**

- 4 - 5 days a week
- 30-45 minutes in length
- Includes mini-lessons, grammar, active writing, and conferencing
- *Vision - Intentional teaching of informative, narrative and opinion standards in which the teacher models and gradually releases responsibility to the student. Grammar conventions are embedded within mini-lessons and conferencing.*

**Phonemic Awareness/Phonics/Word Work/Vocabulary**

- 5 days a week
- 10-15 minutes
- Includes lessons on print concepts, phonological awareness, letter knowledge, letter/sound relationships, spelling patterns, word meaning, word structure
- *Vision – To expand and refine children’s reading and writing powers.*

**\*Read Aloud**

- 5-10 minutes every day
- Takes place outside of the literacy block (end of day/before or after lunch)
- *Vision - Supports comprehension strategies and speaking and listening standards using complex text*

## Whole Group Reading

20 – 30 minutes – 5 days a week

### Rationale

In whole group reading, teachers model how to implement the skill or strategy in multiple text and use “think-alouds” to help students understand what is going on inside their head as they demonstrate the skill or strategy. This may be the only time students see the skill or strategy modeled explicitly. (Duffy, 2003; Hancock 1999)

### Best Practices

- Students gather in a designated whole group meeting area
- Each lesson has a clear instructional focus that meets the ELA Common Core State Standard(s)
- The skill or strategy is explicitly modeled
- Exemplar text is purposefully selected
- Students actively participate during the lesson
- Tier Three ELA content vocabulary (central message, key details, author, illustrator etc...) is taught and discussed
- Higher order text dependent questions are included to stimulate discussions
- Lessons follow the gradual release of responsibility model
- Opportunities for written response are included

### What are the students doing?

- Actively listening to the teacher and their peers
- Using discussion techniques (turn and talk, fishbowl, think-pair-share)
- Sharing their thinking with the whole group
- Providing evidence from the text when responding to questions to “tell how they know”
- Making text-to-text and text-to-self connections
- Practicing the skills and strategies taught (following the gradual release of responsibility model)
- Using written response to show their thinking
- Using and understanding grade level vocabulary
- Reading text closely

### What is the teacher doing?

- Creating a meeting place with necessary tools (high-lighting tape, sticky notes, pencils) that fosters active student participation and discussion
- Developing lessons based on the Common Core Standards
- Modeling skills and strategies using exemplar text
- Explicitly teaching Tier Three ELA content vocabulary
- Facilitating evidence based conversations
- Developing text dependent questions before lesson is taught
- Monitoring the use of reading strategies throughout the school day
- Using grade-appropriate complex text
- Modeling how to read text closely

## Whole Group Reading Resources

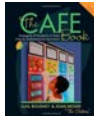
ELA Common Core State Standards <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>



*The Common Core Lesson Book*, Owocki



*Poetry Lessons to Meet the Common Core State Standards*, Heard



*The CAFE Book*, Boushey & Moser



*The Comprehension Toolkit Content Literacy Primary*



*The Primary Comprehension Toolkit*, Harvey & Goudvis



*Toolkit Texts, K-1*, Harvey & Goudvis



*Interactive Read-Alouds*, Hoyt



*Junior Great Books*, Read Aloud Program K-1

Teaching Channel Instructional Videos

[www.teachingchannel.org](http://www.teachingchannel.org)



40 Ways to Read Like a Detective

<http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1189710>



Discovery Education Common Core Lessons



## **Guided Reading**

60 minutes a day – 5 days a week

### **Rationale**

Students learn best when they are provided strong instructional support to extend themselves by reading texts that are on the edge of their learning - not too easy but not too hard. (Vygotsky, 1978)

The goal of guided reading is to help students build their reading power – to build a network of strategic actions for processing texts. (Fountas & Pinnell, 2012)

### **Best Practices**

- Students are placed into small groups that target specific student needs
- Lowest group is met with daily
- Groups are flexible, not static
- Text is chosen based on students' instructional needs and interests
- Students are writing about their reading
- Lessons have a focused teaching point and follow a research based format or structure
- Students are exposed to various genres of text
- Guided reading lessons and materials are prepared in advance
- Students have their own personal book box (bags, bins, etc.) to read from and to build independent reading stamina
- Students are reading independently for up to 30 minutes daily

### **What are the students doing?**

#### While reading with the teacher:

- Reading books on their instructional level
- Self-correcting and monitoring
- Learning decoding, vocabulary and comprehension skills
- Responding to their reading through discussion and written response
- Using phonics skills that have been taught to manipulate sounds to make words (picture sorts, making words, analogy charts, sound boxes etc.)

#### While reading independently:

- Building independent reading stamina
- Responding to their reading through written response
- Rereading independent level books for fluency and accuracy
- Reading "just right" books to build fluency and accuracy
- Working independently on meaningful and purposeful literacy activities

### **What is the teacher doing?**

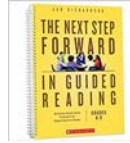
- Meeting with small groups
- Monitoring time spent with each group
- Following a guided reading lesson format
- Developing differentiated guided reading plans based on students' instructional needs
- Progress Monitoring students
- Taking anecdotal notes on reading behaviors
- Developing higher order open-ended questions to use in guided reading lessons
- Choosing appropriate texts for each group
- Actively listening and interacting with students through prompting, questioning and encouraging
- Giving students opportunity to practice decoding, vocabulary and comprehension skills
- Giving students the opportunity to respond to the text (in writing and orally)

## Guided Reading Resources

ELA Common Core State Standards <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>

*The Next Step Forward in Guided Reading*, Richardson

<http://www.janrichardsonguidedreading.com/>



**New!**

*Next Step Guided Reading in Action: Model Lessons on Video Featuring Jan Richardson*

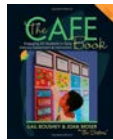


*The Daily Five*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Boushey & Moser

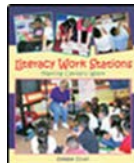
<http://www.thedailycafe.com/> (requires subscription for full access to all resources)



*The CAFE Book*, Boushey & Moser



*Literacy Work Stations*, Diller (K-2)



*Increasing Fluency with High Frequency Word Phrases*, Fry & Rasinski



Grade 1

## Writing

30 – 45 minutes – 4 - 5 days a week

### Rationale

Students will learn how excellent writing is achieved, study model exemplars, and practice language mastery to share outstanding spoken and written communication for any purpose, audience, or occasion. (Florida Department of Education, 2011)

### Best Practices

- Establish a community of writers
- Writer's workshop model
- Mini-lessons target student needs and are based on the Common Core State Standards
- Explicit modeling of writing skills and strategies
- Use of mentor text to demonstrate author's craft
- Regular conferencing with students
- Integrated grammar instruction
- Writing across all content areas and throughout the instructional day
- Writing for real audiences and authentic purposes

### What are the students doing?

- Writing narrative, informational and opinion pieces
- Writing about what they read
- Implementing new skills and strategies for writing learned from mentor texts and mini-lessons
- Writing across the content areas (science, social studies and math)
- Learning and following the writing process; including planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing
- Listening to their peers' stories and offering feedback
- Sharing their ideas and their writing
- Actively conferencing with the teacher and setting writing goals
- Writing often and for different purposes

### What is the teacher doing?

- Providing multiple opportunities for students to write - Writer's Workshop and across content areas
- Modeling of writing
- Modeling of writing in response to text (1<sup>st</sup> grade)
- Thinking aloud during writing mini-lessons
- Creating anchor charts to reinforce writing skills, strategies and structure
- Conferencing with students - providing feedback and focusing on a teaching point
- Selecting student work for sharing and encouraging students to examine and offer feedback
- Developing mini-lessons based on student needs
- Selecting mentor text to illustrate author's craft
- Integrating grammar and mechanics' lessons in Writer's Workshop
- Increasing how often students produce their own text

## Writing Resources

ELA Common Core State Standards <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>



*Units of Study for Primary Writing (K-2)*, Calkins

*Explorations in Nonfiction Writing*, Hoyt & Stead



Kindergarten



Grade 1



*The Common Core Writing Book*, Owocki



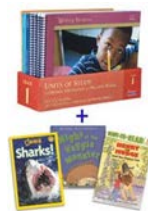
*Mastering the Mechanics*, Hoyt & Therriault

Writing Fix Kindergarten Units <http://writingfix.com/workshop/jodieb.htm>

***New!***



Kindergarten



Grade 1

*Units of Study for Teaching Writing*, Calkins



## Word Work

10 – 15 minutes – 5 days a week

### Rationale

Word knowledge is essential for word decoding and reading comprehension, as well as world communication and writing. (Rasinski & Zutell, 2010)

### Best Practices

#### Word Study:

- Phonological/phonemic awareness and phonics are taught using picture sorts, Elkonin boxes, words sorts etc...
- Lessons target student needs and are based on Foundational Skills of the Common Core State Standards
- Students have opportunities to manipulate sounds, break apart words and make different words using their sound/pattern knowledge
- Students are placed in different word study groups based on spelling inventory (if applicable)
- Words studied are chosen based on student need

#### Vocabulary:

- Tier Two vocabulary is explicitly taught using the Frayer Model, Marzano Model or Hoyt Model
- Students are taught vocabulary strategies to determine the meaning of Tier Two words and phrases

### Word Study Activities

- Word Sorts (blind sorts, speed sorts, picture sorts)
- Word Hunts
- Draw and Label
- Write and Draw
- Making Words
- Change-a-Letter
- Rhyme Time
- Word Operations

### What are the students doing?

- Working with magnetic letters, letter tiles and sound boxes to make new words
- Sorting words by word parts, blends, digraphs, patterns, and word families (word sorts and picture sorts)
- Working in pairs to practice spelling words
- Adding Tier Two words to a vocabulary notebook and representing their meaning with pictures and words
- Noticing Tier Two vocabulary in text
- Applying newly learned word knowledge across the content areas

### What is the teacher doing?

- Explicitly teaching the sound, pattern or concept to differentiated word study groups
- Modeling strategies for spelling words- stretching the word out, clapping syllables, using anchor charts and word parts
- Providing opportunities for sorting words (pocket chart, SMARTboard activities etc.)
- Purposefully selecting text that allows for explicit teaching of vocabulary strategies
- Developing word consciousness in students
- Modeling how to use the vocabulary strategies
- Teaching Tier Two vocabulary from text

**Word Study Activities**

- Word Sorts (blind sorts, speed sorts, picture sorts)
- Word Hunts
- Draw and Label
- Write and Draw
- Making Words
- Change-a-Letter
- Rhyme Time
- Word Operations

**Selecting Words:**

Ideally, words for study come from the children's reading and writing. However there are a number of word lists available to choose from that feature particular patterns, sounds or meanings. Students need to be able to read the words being used.

**Pictures may be substituted for words for beginning readers.**

Include a few exceptions to the categories (these are words that do not fit in any of the categories).

**How Many Words:**

10 to 25 words for two to five categories

**Sorts:**

**Sound sorts, pattern sorts or concept/meaning sorts**

- Picture Sort  
Pictures are sorted according to similarities and differences in their sound or meaning. Picture sorts are usually used with students who have not yet learned to recognize many or any words.
- Closed Sort  
Students match words to like categories identified by key words. Once the matching is complete, they analyze the common characteristic(s) of each category and try to develop a generalization that explains why certain words are grouped together.
- Open Sort  
Students are given a set of words and are free to determine their own categories. They analyze the common characteristic(s) of each category and try to develop a generalization that explains why certain words are grouped together.
- Writing Sort  
Words are written under the appropriate category, headed by key words. This activity can be combined with a blind sort.
- Blind Sort  
Students are not allowed to see the words to be sorted, but must depend on sound and their knowledge of the associated pattern to determine word placement. This activity works well combined with writing as an end of the week evaluation.
- Speed Sort  
This form of sorting is practiced after students are able to accurately categorize their words. Each student sorts twice (with a buddy) trying to increase his or her speed on the second attempt while maintaining accuracy.

## Kindergarten and First Grade

### **Word Hunts:**

Students search through material they are currently reading to find additional words with the features being studied. Goal is for students to find at least 10 words, with a minimum of one word/category. Exceptions can be recorded, but do not count in the number.

### **Draw and Label:**

Students draw pictures that relate to the key letters and sounds they are studying. They label the pictures with as much of the word as they can, then either draw a blank line for the rest of the word or use invented spelling to finish it.

### **Change-a-letter:**

- Level 1: Students are given a CVC word. They are allowed to change one element at a time in order to create a new word.
- Level 2: Students are ready to change either the initial or final element of the word to create a new word.
- Level 3: Students are ready to change any portion of the words – beginning, ending or middle vowel.

### **Write and Draw:**

Students choose whether to draw a picture for a word or write a sentence. Pictures must *clearly* show that they student understands the meaning of the word. Sentences also must clearly show the meaning of the word.

### **Rhyme Time:**

Students generate rhyming words based on words from their weekly list. Two students decide what the starting word will be from their list. Students write as many rhyming words as they can, using a timer or other device to insure that each partner has an equal chance to record words. When the time is up partners check their lists for words that are correct and unique to their list. Each of the remaining words that are unique to their list - earns one point. A point is subtracted for an incorrectly spelled word. A dictionary or an expert is used to settle questions. Three or four rounds are played with a new focus word each time.

### **Word Operations:**

Students add, subtract or add and subtract word elements to make a new word. They choose 5 to 10 words to “operate” on and record them in their notebooks and write the new word after each. They could underline the alterations.

camp – cramp

sport-short

lost - list

Kindergarten and First Grade

A more in-depth description of the above mentioned activities can be found in:

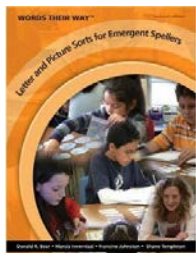


Word Journeys

<http://www.mypersontraining.com/products/wordstheirway/tutorials.asp>

### **Suggested activities for Emergent Spellers:**

- Create individual or class alphabet books after students have been introduced to several during read-aloud times. Pictures that start with a particular letter-sound can be drawn or cut from magazines and glued to separate letter sheets.
- Make rainbow letters. Letters are formed with a favorite colored crayon, then traced over with other favored colors.
- Do letter sorts, where students group letters that have been printed in different fonts.
- Use magnetic letters or letter cards to match uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Make an alphabet collage of a favorite letter. Letters and pictures from magazines are cut and glued to the sheet.
- Sort pictures or objects by their beginning sound.
- Sorts pictures or objects by concept, such as color, shape, city/country.



See **Letter and Picture Sorts for Emergent Spellers (Words Their Way)** for explicit lessons, activities and black line masters.

## Word Study Resources

ELA Common Core State Standards <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>

*Words Their Way*, Bear, Ivernizzi, Johnston & Templeton



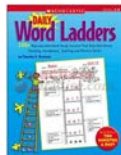
*Words Their Way Word Lists*



*Word Journeys*, Kathy Ganske



*Daily Word Ladders*, Rasinski



Grade 1-2

*Phonics Lessons*, Fountas & Pinnell



Kindergarten



Grade 1

*Road to the Code*, Blachman, Ball & Black



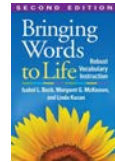
Free Reading [www.freereading.net](http://www.freereading.net)

Florida Center for Reading Research <http://www.fcrr.org/>

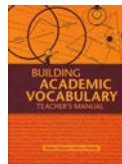
## Vocabulary Resources

ELA Common Core State Standards <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>

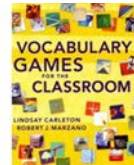
Bringing Words to Life, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Beck, McKeown & Kucan



Building Academic Vocabulary, Marzano



Vocabulary Games for the Classroom, Carleton & Marzano



Hoyt KID Vocabulary <http://devotedtovocabulary.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/kid-vocabulary.pdf>

Fruyer Model <http://wvde.state.wv.us/strategybank/FruyerModel.html>

K-5 Curriculum & Instruction Division

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Third Grade – Michelle Hedrick  
Fourth Grade – Debbie Allen  
Fifth Grade – Greta Traxler



**Instructional Websites**

Randolph County School System

[www.randolph.k12.nc.us](http://www.randolph.k12.nc.us)

K-5 Instruction Wiki

<http://randolphk-5instruction.wikispaces.com/>

DPI ELA Wiki

<http://elaccss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/Resources>

Achieve the Core

<http://achievethecore.org/>

North Carolina Read to Achieve Livebinder

<http://www.livebinders.com/play/play/850102>

