
Week 1: Introduction & Initial Assessment

The first week of the program is all about building rapport with the students and assessing their current reading levels. This is important to tailor the program to meet the diverse needs of each student. The primary objective for this week is to discuss students' reading interests and evaluate their existing reading abilities.

Activities:

The week begins with ice-breaker activities designed to get students comfortable with one another. Sharing their favourite books and reading experiences helps them feel more confident and engaged in the learning process. These activities also provide insight into their interests, which can later be used to select reading material that they will find enjoyable and motivating.

The next step is introducing the foundational building blocks of reading: vowels and consonants. Understanding these basic sounds is crucial, as they serve as the building blocks for word formation and pronunciation. Students are taught the sounds of each letter, and a variety of exercises and games are used to reinforce this knowledge. This step ensures that all students are on the same page and have the necessary background knowledge to succeed in the coming weeks.

Finally, a basic reading ability check is conducted where students read aloud to assess their fluency and comprehension. This provides valuable information on their current reading level, highlighting areas of strength and areas that need improvement.

Week 2: Introduction to Simple Words

With the foundational knowledge of letters and sounds in place, the focus shifts to vocabulary building in week two. The primary objective is to help students build a small but essential vocabulary through simple words and their meanings.

Activities:

The students are introduced to basic words, focusing on common nouns, verbs, and adjectives. These are the building blocks of sentences and serve as the foundation for more complex language skills. As new words are introduced, students are encouraged to break them into syllables, a technique that aids in understanding word structure and pronunciation.

To ensure understanding, students are encouraged to use the new words in simple sentences. This practice reinforces their understanding of word meanings and helps them see how words work together in a sentence. Additionally, students may be asked to create their own sentences using the new vocabulary to further internalize their learning.

Week 3: Paragraph Reading & Dictionary Use

In week three, the emphasis is on improving reading comprehension and encouraging students to become independent learners. The primary objective is to help students read short paragraphs while enhancing their ability to understand and expand their vocabulary.

Activities:

Students begin by reading short paragraphs in class. These are carefully selected texts that are age-appropriate and designed to be challenging but not overwhelming. After reading, students are tasked with creating a word list of any new or challenging words they encountered. This word list is then reviewed as a class, with discussions on the meanings and proper usage of these words.

A key aspect of this week is teaching students how to use dictionaries—both physical and online—to look up unfamiliar words. Understanding how to use a dictionary is an essential skill that encourages independence and supports long-term vocabulary development. Students learn how to find word definitions and pronunciations, further enhancing their language skills.

Week 4: Short Story Reading

By the fourth week, students are ready to tackle longer reading materials. The objective for this week is to promote independent reading and continue developing vocabulary skills.

Activities:

In class, students read a short story together. Afterward, there is a group discussion about the plot, characters, and any new vocabulary. This discussion encourages critical thinking and helps students better understand the text. The emphasis is not only on comprehension but also on discussing themes, character motivations, and the overall structure of the story.

For homework, students are assigned another short story to read on their own. They are asked to identify any new words and create a word list, which they will discuss in the following class. Students also practice using the new words in sentences, reinforcing their meanings and ensuring retention.

This independent reading practice fosters a sense of ownership over the learning process and helps students develop confidence in their reading abilities.

Week 5: Feedback, Review & Testing

The final week of the program is focused on assessing progress, providing feedback, and encouraging continued reading. This week serves as both a review and a checkpoint to evaluate how much students have learned over the previous weeks.

Activities:

The week begins with a feedback session where students discuss their progress and share their thoughts on the program. This is a time for the instructor to assess the individual progress of each student and offer tailored advice on how to continue improving their reading skills.

To evaluate the students' comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency, a small reading test is conducted. This test is designed to assess their understanding of the material covered over the previous weeks. Based on the results, the instructor provides individualized feedback, highlighting areas of strength and offering suggestions for further development.

Finally, the teacher and students discuss strategies for continuing to build their reading habits. Emphasis is placed on the importance of daily reading practice, setting reading goals, and exploring a variety of genres. This week also includes a meeting with the class teacher to ensure that students are on track for long-term success and to promote a love for reading that extends beyond the classroom.

Conclusion

This five-week reading program is designed to progressively build students' reading abilities while fostering a love for books and language. By starting with foundational skills like letter sounds and gradually progressing to independent reading, students are given the tools and confidence to become skilled readers. Each week, specific objectives and activities ensure that students are not only learning how to read but are also developing essential skills like vocabulary building, comprehension, and independent learning. The program ultimately aims to cultivate a lifelong love of reading, equipping students with the tools they need to continue growing and succeeding in their academic journey.