

Literacy Philosophy

The power of literacy opens up a world of opportunities to the young learner. Literacy is more than simply reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Literacy is everywhere. It consists of daily communication (newspaper, magazine, letters, and street signs), being able to express yourself, and it is also evident in culture. You must be literate to **assume full responsibilities of citizenship**. You must be literate to compete for twenty-first century jobs. It is my job as a teacher to help each student gain literacy skills, develop an interest in reading to gain knowledge and for pleasure, and to learn to communicate effectively.

All students step into the classroom with different **funds of knowledge**. They all come in with different backgrounds and prior knowledge. I make it a priority to get to my students. I assess their progress and personalities in order to create meaningful lessons that are relevant to their lives. I create opportunities to bring in different text. Lastly, I support all my students' literacy development; I differentiate the students' instruction and help them set personal goals.

In my classroom, students have a **consistent, daily literacy schedule**. We practice reading everyday through choral reading, table reading, and small group **reading workshops (both homogeneous and heterogeneous)** develops a supportive learning environment for students to become familiar with literacy. Within homogeneous reading workshops the purpose is for learning specific, targeted skills. When we alternate to heterogeneous groups we are practicing getting different perspectives, peer-teaching, and learning. Students also have many opportunities to read stories of their choice, and take comprehension assessment tests. (AR)

Data driven instruction helps support my methods of differentiation I create to aid in the success of every different leveled student's progression. As a teacher, I provide challenges for every student by differentiating spelling test and reading books. For example, having two different spelling groups keeps each student on track toward his or her targeted learning goal.

Students are **assessed weekly**, to progress monitor and ensure that there is a continual progression. The formal and informal assessments are every day. Not only is support in the classroom important, but I strongly believe that practice outside for the classroom is beneficial. Frequent communication with families about classroom activities and individual student progression is very important. Weekly newsletters and notes home to parents help them to stay on track of students' weekly progress. Parent workshops are wonderful to give ideas on how parents can incorporate literacy to activities outside of the classroom. Engaging students in literacy outside of the classroom will help them on their path to proficiency.