

Independent Reading Support

Reading Routines

Purpose: Support students in making effective and successful use of independent reading time.

Research Basis: Within a good instructional program, independent reading can help students develop fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and background knowledge. However, reading independently is not a substitute for key skill instruction in decoding, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency. Teachers can support students as independent readers by assisting with book selection and encouraging students to share information about what they have read (Cunningham & Stanovich, 1998).

- 1. Selecting topics.** Provide a rich collection of books to choose from. Books may include known texts, classroom favorites, or picture books. Support students in selecting books of interest for independent reading. Discussing books in advance with individual students or groups can motivate readers and help them determine what they want to read.
- 2. Sharing.** Bring students together to share their reading experiences. Students who have read different books can summarize what they read, and share what they found most interesting in their reading. Students who have read the same or similar books can share what they have learned about the topic and what more they would like to learn.
- 3. Extending.** Encourage students to extend their understanding of the book with an activity such as one of the following:
 - Draw a picture about something related to the book.
 - Create a short play or pantomime based on the book.

Application

- Independent Reading Time

