

Literacy Tips - Dec

Hello, everyone! This month, I would like to discuss decodable books. Decodable books are books that are designed to reinforce phonetic rules that the children are learning. This is slightly different than leveled or story books.

Your child may be bringing home books from school or the public library that have a leveled number, usually from K-3. These numbers usually reflect the grade that the child is in but they still cover quite a large range of skills abilities. For example, when I taught grade one, the children would start reading books at level K and move into level 1 around Christmas time. Level 1 was a huge range from beginning word families all the way to words that included long vowels and irregular sight words.

I use decodable books extensively in my intervention program. If I am teaching the skills of short vowel, one syllable words then I will reinforce this with decodable books that practice this skill. They are very targeted to the skill. Publishers, like Scholastic, are producing many more of these types of books. I have used them for long vowel concepts, r-controlled words (with er, ir, ur, ar, or), diphthongs (oi, oy, ou, ow), and then moving on to multi-syllable words using prefixes and suffixes. These sorts of books will be difficult to find in your public library but certainly ask about them.

Any reading is beneficial to your child's growth in reading. If your child is struggling with a certain level, then go lower. They should be reading at about a 95% accuracy rate to be at a level. This builds fluency and confidence. Teachers also look to this 95% confidence level when choosing and discussing choices with your child.

Happy Holidays!



