

Teaching Beginning Reading

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Get Beginning Readers Off to a Great Start

Get your beginning readers off to a great start! Arrange whole-class and small-group activities. Offer children opportunities to work alone and with partners. Use a variety of materials and activities that make learning fun. Maximize the minutes children spend actually engaged in reading. Spend lots of time reading and discussing stories. Share your enthusiasm for reading and you'll have a roomful of eager learners who are excited about becoming good readers!



High-Interest Activities

Jumpstart young readers with a variety of high-interest learning activities! Have the children do any of the following:

- Identify names and shapes of letters
- Sort letters and find letters in words
- Sing songs and recite rhymes
- Discuss stories
- Engage in movements such as clapping and tapping to songs and poems
- Repeat sentences and stories you dictate
- Divide words into separate sounds
- Engage in word-play by manipulating letters to make new words
- Participate in shared reading and pocket-chart activities
- Read charts, poems, and stories

**SuperStar
Teacher
Tip**

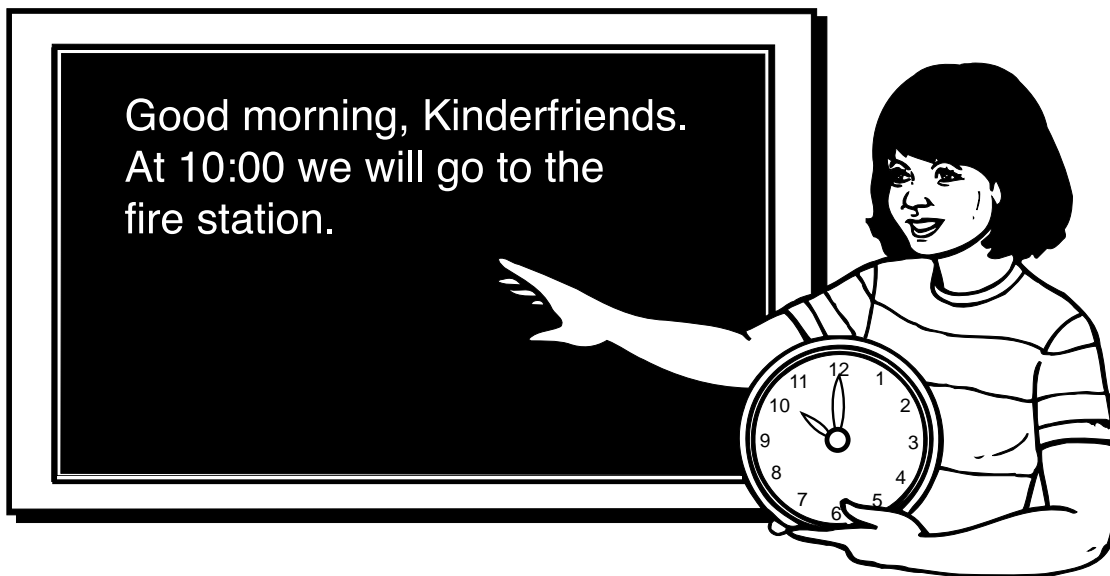
Photocopy the list of reading and language skills you are responsible for teaching at your grade level. Make several copies of the skills list, and staple it inside the front of your plan book and teacher manuals. You can highlight skills when you teach them. Keeping this skills checklist in a highly visible place is a good idea!

Get Beginning Readers Off to a Great Start



Start and End the Learning Day with Reading and Writing

Start the day with a “Good Morning” chat. Take a few minutes to chat with your class at the beginning of the busy learning day. Talk about some of the activities that are going to occur during the day. Jot sentences on the chalkboard that reflect the discussion. Then, use a teaching clock to show the times some of the activities will occur. If children have individual clocks, have them use their clocks to show the times for the various activities. To teach concepts such as first, next, later, before, and after, talk about the sequence of events. Read aloud the sentences about the “Good Morning” chat. Then, reread them aloud together. This talking, writing, and reading activity gets the learning day off to the best start possible!



End the day by gathering children together to discuss the day. Write a sentence or two in a class diary for the month. Read the sentences aloud to the class. At the end of the month, place the class diary in your classroom library so children can reread it. If it's difficult to find time each day to write in a class diary, make it a special activity for Friday afternoons. It takes just a few minutes and brings closure to the school week.

When you elicit sentences from children for you to write on the chalkboard or in a diary, consider writing at the end of the sentence the name of the child who said it. Children love seeing their name, and more children will participate when they know they will get recognition for their contributions.

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Tip**