

The Primary Success Notebook



From Primary Success Publications

Issue #12

June 2010

Inside

Art for June	8
Beach Day	10
Class Management	6
End of the Year	11
Father's Day	9
Insects	7
Math	5
Poems for June	2
Sight Words	3
Writing	4

Thank You!

This will be the last of the Notebooks. Now there is one for every month on the website, and in the coming year you will still be able to reference it.

It is time to enjoy the warm days and the sunshine! Take your children outdoors to do Science exploration, to exercise and even to read. Plan some interesting units and themes for May and June to brighten the days.

It is also time to think about next year and what you can do to improve your lessons. What subjects do you find the most difficult to teach? Are your children reading as well as you would like? Are their math skills as good as they can be? Do you feel your science and P.E. lessons are well planned and fun? Use part of your summer to work on your preparation for next year. Check the Primary Success catalogue for very practical ideas.

Have a great summer!

Jean



The End is Near....

Teachers are very lucky. Their jobs renew every year! We can begin again in the fall with a fresh slate, usually with new children and always with renewed enthusiasm. Now, as the school year winds down, we begin the necessary separation with the students that we know so well - some we will miss very badly, and others that we love but will be happy to pass along to the next teacher.

This issue of the Notebook has ideas to use in this last month, and lots of 'end-of-the-year' ideas. You will have lots of work to do - report cards, classroom organization, work to complete, and entertaining to do with a class of children who are impatient for the vacation to begin. Hopefully you will find some ideas to make this month easier!



Poetry for June

The school year is over
And now, what fun!
Lessons are finished
Our vacation's begun.

The sun is shining
Let's go to the pool,
On a very hot day
The water feels cool.

Perhaps we will travel
To exciting places
With new things to do
And lots of new faces.

When summer is over
And it is September,
We'll come back to school
With much to remember.



Dear _____,
You are a very special person,
And, _____, you should know,
How I loved to be your teacher,
How fast the year did go!
Please come back to visit me
As through the grades you grow,
Try hard to learn all that you can
There is so much to know!
One thing I tried to teach you
To last your whole life through,
Is to know that you are special
Just because, _____, you are you!
Love, Ms _____



Good-Bye!

See you later, alligator
After while, crocodile
Not too soon, you big baboon.
In a blizzard, little lizard
In a shake, garter snake
Time to scoot, warty newt
Don't meander, salamander
Hit the road, hoppy toad
Bye-bye butterfly
Be sweet parakeet
Give a hug ladybug
Blow a kiss goldfish
See ya soon, raccoon
Take care polar bear
Tootle-oo kangaroo
So long king kong,
Out the door dinosaur!

The Kindergarten Class

(tune: The Addams Family)
Refrain: Da-da-da-dah (snap, snap)
Da-da-da-dah (snap, snap)
Da-da-da-dah, Da-da-da-dah,
Da-da-da-dah (snap, snap)

We learned our ABC's
And counting one, two, threes.
And now we know all these -
THE KINDERGAREN CLASS!

And we learned how to share,
And we learned how to care.
Just ask us if you dare -
THE KINDERGARTEN CLASS!

It seems we've just begun,
And now it's almost done.
This year's been so much fun -
THE KINDERGARTEN CLASS!

So we must say so long
With this our little song.
But we'll be back before long -
THE KINDERGARTEN CLASS!

Kicking and Screaming!

As an experienced teacher (read 'old'), I have always believed that I knew the best way to teach reading and that I was teaching the children with the best method. I thought this as I taught the old Ginn 720 basal series of sequential sight word teaching. It worked really well! Then I was forced, kicking and screaming, into teaching a direct sequential phonics program. As I learned more about teaching phonics, I realized that this worked very well for my kiddies. So... I added sequential phonics lessons to my sight reading program, and my children were learning better than before. NOW, I thought, I know the best way to teach reading!

Then along came whole language and literature-based teaching and I was dragged, kicking and screaming, into teaching this way. I found that my students were not reading as well with this method, especially the challenged kiddies, and went back to my sight words and phonics - but kept some of the strategies used in literature-based teaching and also taught guided reading lessons using real literature to make reading relevant. NOW I was sure I knew the best way to teach reading.

Since then I have learned the importance of printing and body motions to help the children who are kinesthetic learners. I have learned how modeling the procedures makes a great difference - showing the children how things should be done makes learning so much easier for them. I have learned from the Four-Blocks method and many others.

I quite understand teachers who say their methods are the best - I have been there many times! Now, I feel confident in saying - there is no one 'right' way. Try everything. Do as many different methods as you can in the classroom - different methods teach different children. Never become complacent! There are always new things to learn. Teaching reading is very complicated and the more you know the better your students will be learning. We want our students to become 'life-long learners', and to be the best teacher we can be, that applies to us, too.

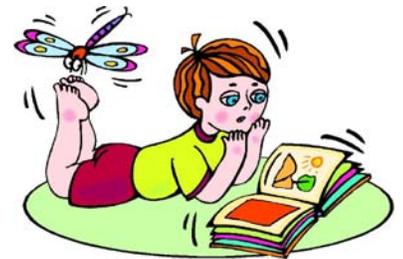
Fun With Sight Words

Have a 'Sight Word Name Day'. Write the sight words on blank nametags (the kind you can peel off the paper and stick to your shirt). As the kids come in, stick a tag with a sight word on it to their shirts. For the rest of the day, that is their name!

Do word hunts. Look in various written pages of consumable writings like newspapers, magazines, etc. for a specific word ('the', for example). Use highlighter pens and see how many one child or a group can find in a specific time (3-5 min.) and then count them. This not only helps them focus on one word but they must use scanning strategies, as well. Tally the results.

Search for words with specific letter combinations - 'sh' or 'ee' for example. List the words on a chart and practice reading them.

Put word cards in a can. The student picks a card and reads it out loud. If he is correct he can keep the card, and it is the next student's turn. The object is to have the most cards at the end of the game. 'Bang' is written on some cards. When a student chooses 'Bang' he has to read BANG in a loud voice and put ALL his cards back in the can. There is always lots of laughing and anybody can win, not just the best reader.



Teaching Quotation Marks

"Sometimes it is nice to get old, because I have wrinkles around my mouth. I smile and point to my mouth asking my kiddies to note the wrinkles and tell them what comes out of my mouth, when I write it down, is in quotation marks like the wrinkles around my mouth."

Use elbow macaroni to show quotation marks. Use cartoons and speech bubbles, too. Readers' Theater is a good way to begin teaching quotation marks.



Teaching Writing

For many children, writing is the most difficult task in the early grades. This is because writing involves many skills, and some children have a problem with one or more of these skills. Writing is a complicated form of communication, and communication cannot occur until the completed writing task can be read and understood. Before being true writers, students must understand our language and be able to put speech into separate words and put words into a complete sentence. They must choose a topic and decide on the first sentence. They must keep these words in mind and in order as they go through the next steps. Students must have some knowledge of spelling and be able to spell the common words or know where to find them. They must have a knowledge of phonics to help them spell words with which they are unfamiliar. Then they must be able to print these letters and words legibly, and this is a formidable task for some children. After the words have been printed, the student must be able to read the words, so reading is also a prerequisite.

Many students do not feel comfortable writing in Kindergarten and early Grade One because one or more of these prerequisites is difficult for them. This will improve as their skills improve. By the end of the Grade One almost all children will have the necessary background skills to be writing freely.

Synonyms

Synonyms are almost the same,
 Synonyms are almost the same,
 Come, let's play a matching game.
 Sing two words that mean the same.
 When I'm happy,
 I am glad.
 When I'm naughty,
 I am bad.
 If it's large,
 It's also big.
 A hog is
 Also called a pig.
 See me hurry,
 See me rush.

To be quiet
 Means to hush.
 If I want,
 I also wish.
 A plastic bowl
 Is still a dish.
 They have meanings,
 Much the same.
 Synonyms, almost the same.
 Synonyms, almost the same.
Author Unknown



This can be read in parts, with one group saying the first and another replying.

Math Ideas

BBB

"When subtracting with re-grouping, I use the 'BBB' method. This means if the Bottom number is Bigger you Borrow. We practice this every day by repeating the meaning and discussing. A lot of modeling and practice goes with it."

And don't forget "Bigger Bottom, Better Borrow!"

Addition and Subtraction Clues

"I spend the last couple of months in *Grade One* reviewing the addition and subtraction combinations to 10. I make sure the children know these steps.

Addition:

1. Know that $7 + 2$ and $2 + 7$ are the same thing.
2. Begin to add with the largest number first: $7 + 2$
3. Do not count out the largest number - stand on it or say it or go to it on the number line.
4. Practice adding 1, counting on one number from the other larger number.
5. Practice adding 2 (and most of my class can do + 3, too) - counting on from the larger number.

Subtraction:

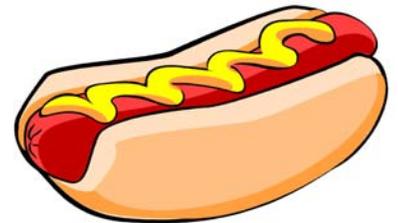
1. In subtraction the largest number is always first.
2. Practice counting backwards.
3. Do not count out the largest number - stand on it or say it or go to it on the number line.
4. Practice subtracting 1, counting down one number from the other larger number.
5. Practice subtracting 2 (and most of my class can do - 3, too) - counting down from the larger number."

Summer Fraction Activities

Figure out how to divide a pizza, bag of M&M's, etc. equally for a given number of people.

When eating a hot dog, divide it into $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, or $\frac{1}{4}$ before eating.

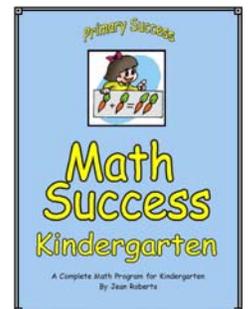
Do a jigsaw puzzle. If it is 100 pieces, how many pieces would you have to have figured out, when you are $\frac{1}{4}$ done? $\frac{1}{2}$ done? $\frac{3}{4}$ done?



The Math Success Program

Primary Success has an original math program that has been proven to work very well! Schools that use it report that their math scores have increased and the students are far ahead. The program uses strategies that increase understanding and give students alternative ways to approach math procedures that suit different learning styles. This program is for Kindergarten through Third Grade. Math Success is a complete program with teaching strategies, lesson plans, student practice sheets and assessment.

Go to our website to see sample lessons!



Classroom Management

Paper planes and spelling tests

One teacher said that he was having difficulty getting his students to take their Friday spelling test seriously. So, one Friday, after correcting the tests, he passed them back to the students and said that anyone who had a perfect score was allowed to fold the test paper into a paper plane. He then took the entire class to the auditorium for a flying contest. The three students whose planes flew the farthest were given a simple reward.

Back in the classroom after the flying contest, he announced that they would have another paper plane contest next Friday after the spelling test. In one week, he went from having 8 students with perfect scores to 24 students with perfect scores. You have to love that!



Getting their attention:

Play 'catch my wink'. Look them straight in the eye and wink at them. They wink (or blink if they can't wink) back. They can only do it if they're watching you.

"If you want the children to be quiet.... have them close their eyes. Only do it if they will be safe, of course... they have to pay attention to what they are doing and that makes them quiet."

Raise your hand as a quiet signal, with the thumb and pointer fingers forming an L (Look, Listen, and Lock Lips). Students raise their hands, too, until everyone is quiet.

- Or:
1. flick the lights
 2. clap a pattern that the students have to repeat
 3. Say, "If you are listening to me, touch your nose. If you are listening to me touch your hair, etc." Speak very quietly.
 4. ring a small bell
 5. play music

"I announce the word, 'Salami'. This stands for: 'Stop And Look At Me Immediately'."

The Bathroom Bunny (or Bear)

"I have a stuffed rabbit that a child puts on his/her desk when leaving the classroom to go to the bathroom. This way, only one child can leave at a time, and it is very easy to see who is out of the room."



Successful P.E.

This primary book has lesson plans, gross motor activities, skill training, indoor and outdoor games galore - and lots of ideas to make your P.E. lessons fun and successful. There are helpful ways to organize your P.E. periods, too. There are exercises, classroom breaks and games for recess. This book is suitable for teachers from Kindergarten to Grade Three.

Insects in Kindergarten

Some bugs are very helpful, some are very annoying, and some are dangerous. Kindergarten students are fascinated by bugs!

Take A Closer Look

Put magnifying glasses in the science center. Bring in insects and let your children examine them. Have your students look for six legs, two antennae, and the wings. How are spiders different?

Look at different insects - the bee, ants, beetles, flies, etc. What do they have in common?



Bug Habitats

It is fun and interesting to create bug habitats in the classroom. Have the children look carefully to see the vegetation and soil where the insect was found so they can re-create the habitat.

Make a caterpillar home in a small fish tank, a shoebox or milk carton with a hole cut for viewing. Cover the hole with nylon stocking or netting. Place a small twig or two in the home for the caterpillar to use during the pupation phase of its life. Take the children on a caterpillar hunt. Look for caterpillars on the leaves and stems of plants. For food, take a supply of leaves from the plant on which you found the caterpillar. Sprinkle the leaves with a little water and keep them in airtight containers in the refrigerator or take several small branches of the leaves and place them in water as the leaves need to be fresh.

Make an ant farm. If you don't have a proper ant farm that is flat and can be sealed tightly (ants are escape artists) - put sand in a glass jar, add lots of ants, and cover the jar with black construction paper or put the jar in a dark cupboard. When the paper is removed you will see the tunnels by the glass.

Let's be ants!

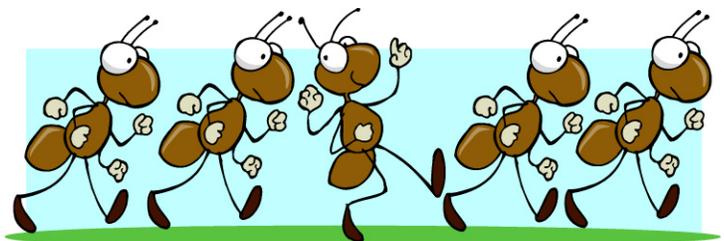
Discuss: How do things look from an ant's perspective? Are things big or small? Describe what your home would look like to an ant. Describe what your classroom would look like to an ant.

Drama/Music:

Point out that all insects have three body parts and six legs. Then divide students into groups of three to form ants: the first person is the head, the second person is the middle (thorax), and the third person is the stomach (abdomen). Have the second and third student place their hands on the shoulders of the child in front of them. Students practice walking together in rhythm, slowly chanting "left, right, left, right..." until their steps are together. Next, they try marching to the Ant Chant. Students take turns being the leader.

Ant Chant (slowly)

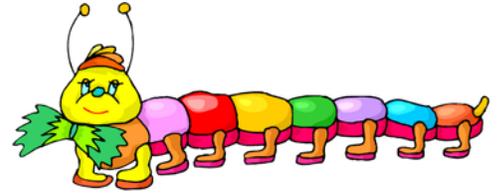
Left and right, left and right,
Ants work hard all day and night.
Left and right, left and right,
Don't get left, step just right. (repeat)



Art for June

Caterpillars

Make a caterpillar using 4 hand-prints with the fingers going down and a fist for a head. Use a finger to form the antennae.

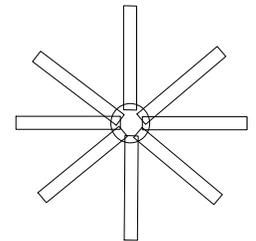
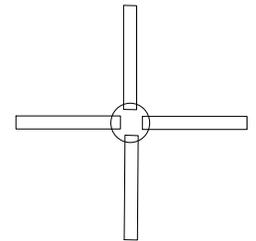


Daisies

These bright daisies make a great border on your classroom windows or at the bottom of a bulletin board.

Each child needs: 2 orange circles (4 cm. in diameter); 8 yellow strips (each 2 cm. x 30 cm.); 1 green strip (2 cm. x 30 cm.) and 2 green leaves (8 cm. long x 4 cm wide).

1. Begin with one orange circle. Glue the end of a yellow strip into the circle pointing upwards (12 o'clock), one pointing downwards (6 o'clock), and one right and left (3 and 9 o'clock).
2. Glue a yellow strip between each of these so the strips are spaced equally around the circle.
3. Glue the outward end of each strip back into the same circle. Do not press the loops flat - they need to look 3-dimensional. Hold each for a minute so the glue will hold.
4. Glue one end of the stem into the circle, too.
5. Glue the other circle on top of the glued ends, matching the original circle.
6. Cut out the leaves and glue to the stem.



"We drew a large flower (pencil only) on cream coloured construction paper. Then we covered the stem, leaves, petals, etc. with ripped tissue paper (no tracing the shape or cutting allowed). It looked better if it wasn't too 'perfect'. The non-perfectionists in the class loved that they could 'colour outside the lines' on this project. The tissue paper has a 'see-through' effect."

NEW!!

Successful Social Studies - Kindergarten

This long awaited book is finally completed and ready for you. There are units on the classroom, good manners, I am unique, map skills, the people around me, my community and the environment. Here is a complete program for Kindergarten teachers - with lots of material for full-day Kindergarten. There are many little books to photocopy, practice sheets, songs, poems, hands-on ideas and interesting lesson plans. Check the website for a sample and prices.

Look for: **Successful Science Lessons - Kindergarten** coming this summer!

Father's Day

I Have a Little Shadow

I have a little shadow
that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of it
is more than I can see.
So I put it on the wall
and the teacher drew around it,

I cut it out and pasted it -
and that is how you found it.
I put it in an envelope
and gave it to you today,
To tell you that 'I love you'
and a 'Happy Father's Day'!



Make fridge magnets. Buy the little ceramic tiles, and the kids draw their Dad or Grandpa with felt pens. Then spray it with clear varnish, and stick a small magnet on the back.

Make paperweights for Dad. Find nice smooth rocks about the size of a child's palm. The kids paint the rocks to resemble an animal - a frog, a rabbit, a ladybug, etc.

"I collected a set of men's clothes - a shirt, tie, pants and shoes. I took photos of the students dressed up in the clothes. Then they made a frame with the words 'Nobody can fill your shoes!' across the bottom and inserted the photo."

"I have made 'Dad's Cookies' with my class. This is the recipe - it makes about 48 cookies:

Dad's Cookies

1/2 pound butter at room temperature
2 eggs
3 cups brown sugar, packed
1 tsp vanilla
2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp baking soda
1 cup angel flake coconut
2 cups quick-cooking rolled oats (not instant)

Grease cookie pans. Preheat oven to 375 F (190 C). Beat butter, eggs, sugar and vanilla together until they are light and fluffy. Sift flour with baking powder, soda and salt and stir them into the first mixture. Blend well. Stir in coconut and rolled oats. Drop by heaping teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheets and bake for 10 minutes. Cool on wire racks and store in tightly covered cookie tins.

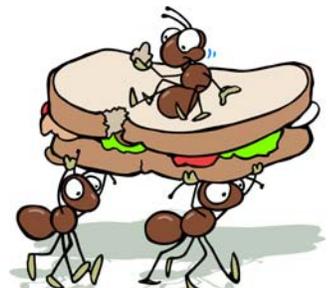
The students can decorate them with icing or smarties if they wish."

Buy white or plain colored coffee mugs at your local dollar store. Have the students write '#1 Dad' and their name and date on the mug.

Write story about Dad, edit it and re-write neatly. Put it into a little book, illustrate it and make a cover. Dad will love it!

Getting "Antsy" For Summer!

"I cover my board with a checked, plastic table cloth (like you would use for a picnic). The students decorated paper plates and then we made ants with black pipe-cleaner legs, and spread them around the tablecloth. We put up creative writing stories and 'ant math' on the paper plates and as 'food' on the tablecloth."



Beach Day!

Have a 'Beach Day' near the end of the school year. The children can move through outdoor centers like sink and float, sand art, play with beach balls, read beach books. Listen and dance to the Beach Boys. The children bring sunglasses, beach towels, hats, etc. Put up a beach umbrella.

1. Make a boat that floats out of plasticene, paper or other materials. See how many pennies your boat will hold before it sinks.
2. Build a sand castle or other sand sculptures outdoors.
3. Design and write a postcard from a trip to the beach.
4. Design a bug/fish/etc. that lives at the beach. Make a beach picture and glue sand to it. Design a beach towel. Design a sail on a sailboat. Make a sailboat. Make a sun - one way is to water down white glue. Tear tissue paper and then glue it down on plastic from laminating or overheads in the shape of the sun. When it dries it can be peeled off the plastic. It's a sun suncatcher!
5. Examine shells, sort, classify. Do wet sand vs. dry sand experiments.
6. Sing beach songs: She wore an itty bitsybikini; Slippery fish, slippery fish swimming in the water.....; My Bonnie lies over the ocean; Swimming swimming in my swimming pool. Think of camp songs you might know.
7. If you're allowed you can have a water fight or water balloon toss outside. Or set up a sprinkler for the kids to run through.

"I bring my beach umbrella in. I've also brought a small tent that I set up for reading. We do the singing with everyone who is participating - often in the gym. We also have some chants to recite. And I try and find a summery type story to read to the group."

Take one beach towel for two kids. They hold the corners. Put a water balloon in the center. They try to 'throw' their balloon to two more players who try to catch it in the towel.

One idea is to put beach towels in your reading area and put your beach related books in a pail or a small wading pool.

"I have a 'beach party' day too. One thing I add to it which I absolutely enjoy (not to mention the kids)...We have a squirt gun battle! Each child can bring a squirt gun to school on that day - everybody is allowed ONE fill-up. Then we establish the rule of no squirting in faces...then go to it. Of course, the kids all are waiting to get me. So I go out covered in a poncho...but armed with my own super-soaker!"

If available, bring in a beach umbrella to read under. Have them bring (or wear) their 'beach wear' - it doesn't have to be swimsuits - and a beach towel. Graph the beach towels according to similar characteristics. If warm enough, play outside under the hose. Play 'Spelling (or sight word, or math) Beachball'. Throw and catch the ball and answer a question, spell a word, etc. Make beach murals with colored chalk on your chalkboards or use sidewalk chalk to create them outdoors.



End of the year ideas...

The last 2 weeks of school can really drag if you don't have lots of exciting things planned. Here are some ideas of things to do:

1. Review the word wall. Instead of the usual Friday Spelling test do games using the word wall.
2. Learn to sing math songs:

<http://www.songsforteaching.com/mathsongs.htm>

3. Write in each other's autograph books. Make each student a book. Some pages can be fill-ins like: My favourite book this year _____; my favourite field trip; the best thing about my teacher; etc. Other pages are blank for the kids to sign (also teachers).
4. Lots of self-selected reading time.
5. Dictionary work. "My kids like this. But we don't just look up words, write page numbers and definitions. Have questions like: If the flag is scarlet, is it red or orange or blue?"
6. Read with partners and in small groups and do simple projects with the stories (make a mini mural; write favourite character descriptions, etc.)



A Cup of Goodies Just for You!

This little cup of goodies Is to you from me, With lots of love As you can see.

Inside I have put some treats for you to use this summer!

- A piece of sidewalk chalk (be sure to ask your parents where it's okay to draw!) - A Band-Aid for one of those summer ouches. - Hugs and Kisses for those times you need them most. - A pencil and eraser so you can practice writing. - A postcard with my address, so you can write to me (or email me) and let me know how you are doing.

I'm glad I was your teacher, I've come to love you so. The year now ends and we must part. Always know you are in my heart.

Have a wonderful vacation! Love, Ms

Popular Primary Success Resources!

Successful Assessment - Kindergarten to Grade 2

There are tests and assessments for math, reading, phonics, spelling, and other subjects. This binder includes assessment check lists, screening sheets, running record sheets, writing standards, and more. There are report card comments and sample interim report cards. This is a very useful resource! Great for year end!

Successful P.E.

This new primary book has lesson plans, gross motor activities, skill training, indoor and outdoor games galore - and lots of ideas to make your P.E. lessons fun and successful. There are helpful ways to organize your P.E. periods, too. There are exercises, classroom breaks and games for recess. This book is suitable for teachers from Kindergarten to Grade Three.

Sight Reading - Start Right - Kindergarten

Give your Kindergarten children a great start in reading! This program gives you many ideas to teach the concepts of print and it teaches the beginning sight vocabulary (30 words) in an interesting 'hands-on' way. There are reproducible worksheets and little books for the children to read.

The Successful Sight Reading Program

This series is widely used in the classroom, especially for the children who are slower to learn to read. These books give them the needed repetition and give you many strategies to help them learn. These books are also popular with Special Education teachers, as they are easy to teach and contain everything needed for success. For more information, go to the Primary Success website.

Successful Sight Reading - Part One / Part Two / Part Three / Part Four

This program is very popular and is being used with great success, both in the classroom and in Learning Assistance rooms with students who have difficulties with early reading. The Successful Sight Reading books have daily lesson plans, with lots of teaching strategies and practice sheets. It has everything you need to teach beginning reading successfully! Part One teaches the first 100 sight words so that your Grade One students soon become readers, and Part Two teaches the next 150 words. Part Three and Four continue the sequential program. It is well organized, simple to follow and the program has proven results.

Little Books to Accompany Successful Sight Reading - Part One / Part Two / Part Three

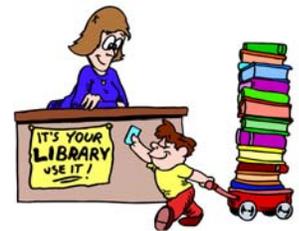
These binders each have more than 50 little books for you to photocopy for your students. These little books match the lessons in Successful Sight Reading - Part 1, 2 and 3. These will give your children the extra reading practice that they need, and the little books are fun, too!

"My children's reading has greatly improved with the Successful Sight Reading program! Thanks for this wonderful resource!" R.M.

"I am impressed with how quickly the students were able to read using the reading programs!" K.B.

"My children's reading has greatly improved with the Successful Sight Reading program! Thanks for this wonderful resource!" R.M.

"I am impressed with how quickly the students were able to read using the reading programs!" K.B.



Successful Phonics - Part 1 / Part 2

These books will give you everything you need to teach phonics successfully. Part 1 is a complete phonics program for Grade One and Part 2 is for Grade Two/Three. There are specific daily lesson plans, strategies for teaching the sounds and blending, reproducible reading sheets, flashcards, and reproducible booklets so the children can practice their skills in actual reading material. Successful Phonics is easy to teach, and is explained in simple lessons.

Go to the website for samples and book prices.

Favourite Websites

<http://www.theschoolbell.com/>

An interesting site to explore.

<http://www.carlscorner.us.com/>

This is a perennial favourite!

<http://www.kinderkorner.com/>

Not just for Kindergarten....

<http://www.sabine.k12.la.us/zes/resource/default.htm>

There is so much here it is hard to know where to begin!

Primary Success Publications

4971 Fillinger Cres.

Nanaimo, BC V9V 1J1

E-mail: primarysuccess@shaw.ca

Website:

<http://www.primarysuccess.ca>



Phone:

1-800-758-0889

Fax:

1-250-758-2661