

# The Primary Success Notebook



From Primary Success Publications

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## It's a New School Year!

The challenge of the new school year has arrived, and most primary teachers are happy and excited to be back in the classroom. It is wonderful to plan new programs and methods, and to think of ways in which our teaching can be improved this year. Each September we begin anew, with a bare classroom and new little faces coming in the door, some smiling, some fighting back tears, all a bit apprehensive just as you are. Yes, if you are nervous, know that you are not the only teacher with the jitters. Even the 'mature' teachers are nervous!

We are lucky to have this renewal! Wouldn't an "ordinary" job be boring?

Primary teachers are the most important people in the school system! If our children learn to read and love to read, they will likely do well all through school. We teach not only the fundamentals of reading and math but the attitudes towards learning that will either help or hinder each child's progress.

This is a great responsibility, but also a great pleasure as we see the students progress and see their excitement. Have a great year!

: 0) Jean

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## About Primary Success Publications....

We are a Canadian company, based in B.C. on beautiful Vancouver Island. We have been producing resources for primary teachers since 1995. Teachers appreciate the practical easy-to-teach programs in sight reading, phonics, spelling, writing, math, science, social studies and more. A high percentage of our orders come from teachers or schools who are using some of our other items, and we get many new customers because teachers share their pleasure with their colleagues.

If you enjoy 'The Notebook', pass it on to your friends. They can join the e-mail list from the website and receive all the freebies, too!

Go to the website for great free booklets and ideas! Click on 'The Notebook' link and the 'Freebies' link on the home page.



## Super Teacher Tips!

### Rebecca's Tips

Chair pockets on the backs of their chairs made out of brushed denim have lasted a multitude of years and keeps our books clean, in a safe place and organized ready for reading at a moments notice.

Book bags sewn from upholstery samples are exactly the right size and easy to make as they are pretty much 'pre-cut'.

For recording notes on students progress at a moment's notice I use full sheets of sticky labels ... they don't get lost like post-its and are stuck quickly into a binder at the end of the day under each student's name; when report card time rolls around I have already accumulated notes on each student's progress in a variety of subject areas (I have a subject page for each student).

I use a beautiful soft garden chime to get student's attention rather than my voice ... it's an effective and pleasant way to have them stop, look and listen.

I purchased garden bucket chairs from Superstore a couple of years ago ... I got the large adult size for about \$8 each at the end of the season ... Grade 1s and 2s are small enough that 2 kiddos fit per chair and they love to use them for reading buddies ... I bought 3 and situated them around the classroom for quiet reading times.

We always play soft music during art classes, it keeps the noise down and the atmosphere is so pleasant ... student's actually remind me to turn on the CD player if I forget ... of course we vary the composer, style, artist, etc. and discuss how the music helps our creative juices flow.

To take attendance in the morning, I have the students turn name cards as they come into the classroom, then the monitors of the week retrieve the unturned cards and track down those who may have forgotten, then they fill in the attendance page and bring it to me to check.

We have teddy bears in the classroom as reading buddies ... they love stories, but they need to be read to everyday ... that's why they 'chose' to live at our school!

At the beginning of the year I buy a set of laminated name tags - after laminating them I write each student's name on a name tag/place card with a Sharpie marker and I put sticky velcro on the backs of each card (the scratchy side of the velcro goes on the name tag; the soft side of the velcro goes on the table). I can change the seating plan and refigure tables at a moment's notice ... and I always have extras for when new students arrive throughout the year (I use Sharpies because I can also recycle the name tags by simply writing over the Sharpie with dry marker and then rubbing away with a brush, then reuse with another student).

I used to use baskets of supplies at each table (and I do still have some for the child who always loses everything) but our school switched over to individual pencil boxes which contain writing pencils, colored pencils, crayons, individual pencil sharpeners, erasers, and scissors. We have a high turnover which means kids are always coming and going ... so to save time throughout the year (and to avoid chaos) at the beginning of the year we create about 2 times the number of pencil boxes we require for our class list (I store the extras in the back closet), then when a new student arrives early one morning I don't have to scramble around for the basics but have it all at my fingertips ready for the little one to fit right in.

We begin a 'Songs and Poems' book in the fall using a duotang. We add to it weekly and then have a variety of songs and poems to share with our parents any time. The students take them home at Winter break and keep sharing them with their families at home while we start another in January ... years later I've still had student's come back and tell me they've kept their songs and poems duo tangs and still have them!



We keep our boots on an old bookshelf in the hallway ... our floors stay clean and dry throughout the year, regardless of the weather ... our janitor has personally thanked us for this little tip!

We always take pictures of our field trips wherever we go ... then when we return to school we sort through the pictures and create a 'story' about the field trip as a shared writing experience. Later in the year students actually do their own writing. We laminate and circoflex the pages and turn it into a 'book'. The students love to share this with each other and their parents and they will read them repeatedly. At the end of the year we have created enough books that everyone gets to take one home with them for keeps!

I purchase cards from the dollar store to help celebrate birthdays and I create a beautiful cake drawing on the inside using colourful markers ... the candles on the cake each have a sticker atop them for the flame ... students then get to take their bookbag to the office and as a special treat read with the principal on their birthday. At the 'meet the teacher night' in September I explain to parents that should they choose to celebrate their child's birthday with food that it be in the form of cupcakes as it is much less chaotic or messy than cake. I've never had a parent refute this.

In math during addition and subtraction, we use unifix cubes in egg cartons which are cut down to 10 containers from 12 - this really works using Trevor Calkins Power of Ten program ... I've seen kiddos "get it" when other strategies have failed.

I've used the plastic eaves troughs in my classroom to create bookshelves underneath the old chalkboards (I've positioned them about 6 inches off the floor); they provide excellent bookshelves which allow me to place books facing out. Young children do not readily chose books by looking at the spine of a book, they like to see the fronts.

I always get to know the public librarian in my community (school or home); when they cull children's picture books I often get a phone call and they let me come down and take my pick of the culled books. Generally they let me take the books at no charge knowing that they will be in front of children and be read.

I use Rubbermaid dishpans as book baskets in our classroom; they are sorted by genre or author or subject and each tub and each book in it is labeled with a number - that way it is easily relocated to the correct tub ... and kiddos can easily do this, it's not just up to the teacher to do the sorting.

My teaching partner and I created an Environment Club at our school ... the students in the Environment Club take turns throughout the year to collect all the disposable juice boxes and dispose of left over juice and straws. We take these to the Bottle Depot. Twice a year we meet as one large group and decide where the money we've collected should be spent ... students have donated to some amazing causes (we built a well in India for a community without fresh water; we donated to the Calgary Zoo Conservation Fund; we've donated to the Mustard Seed to help homeless; we've sent supplies to a new school in Africa) ... they truly are becoming good citizens!

I got rid of my teacher desk and instead used a large kidney-shaped table and a bookshelf/cupboard. I was able to use the table for guided reading and found it much more useful and less cluttered than my 'teacher desk' which was never big enough to be of much use anyway and at the wrong height to meet with little ones.

*(The teachers in my school had the maintenance make 'rainbow' tables for each room. Each was the shape of half a dooughnut. Up to five or six children could sit at the outer round edge, and the teacher sits in the half-hole. I had mine surfaced with chocolate brown laminate, and used chalk - writing upside down on the tabletop - a great skill to learn! I used kleenex to wipe the table clean. This was wonderful for small group teaching. Jean)*

I have kids write their name on the board when they are heading off to the bathroom ... that way you always know who is out of the room. I also have a rule that only one boy and one girl (with a buddy up until December for Grade 1s) was allowed out of the room at a time (unless of course it's an emergency - as it can be sometimes).



## And More Tips!

Songs and poems are a great way to start the day when kiddos are straggling in. They can start sharing with a buddy and then lead into a whole group before we tackle the morning message. This way we're all doing something instead of waiting for everyone to gather together ... this also encourages those stragglers who like to dawdle in the coatroom.

Treasure boxes (pencil case boxes filled with buttons, rocks, keys, polished stones, glass blobs, feathers, shells, etc.) are magical to a child and are a great way to practice counting (just remember to let them have some play time with it at the beginning and ending of the lesson).

Counterpillars are strings of pony beads in two colour groups of ten each -10 blue and 10 white. They are another quick strategy for beginning adding and subtracting to 20 in Grade 1 - easily held in the hand and used when needed.

A 'magic' pointer created by a piece of dowel with a sparkly pom-pom on the end can work wonders for a shy child to take a turn reading the morning message. I really do believe that if learning can always be a fun experience they will be motivated to try their best.



At report card time I always set up stations in the hallway which reflect our learning in the classroom - classroom books are laid out, as are a few copies of the Songs and Poems duotangs, whatever we've been working on learning in math is set up for parents to try with their kiddos, science experiments are also laid out for the kiddos to teach parents. It provides some important glimpses into our classroom learning experiences as they await meeting with me. The students really enjoy showing their parents what they can do and if siblings are along they are occupied as well.

The best beginning of the year art activity I have done (and continue to do) is to meet with our Grade 6 buddies and create life-size paintings of the Grade 1s and 2s; I then laminate them and the Grade 6s help again the following week to cut them out. Then we line the hallway in front of our classroom with these 'bodies' - we now have individual bulletin boards for each student to hold a sample of their work for display to families throughout the school. It's a great ice-breaker for the kids to get to know their older buddy. Since we're on the first floor near the entrance to our school we always get lots of compliments about our 'welcome to the school'!

Individual mini whiteboards are available and very economical, come in a class set, are very good quality and extremely useful for all kinds of activities in the classroom. I teach how to hear the 'click' of the dry marker to make sure it's properly closed and won't dry out. We each have a sock for wiping the board clean (I just purchase a pack of kiddies socks and each child gets one in which to store the marker (we practice math sentences, spelling, even letter printing; it's fast, easy, fun and motivating.

For classroom clean ups to happen quickly and efficiently, I have a music box which is wound and we try to 'beat the box' and get cleaned up before the music stops.

One thing I do is the first month of school I let them pick where they want to sit, of course if there is a problem I can move them around, the next month I pick where they sit, then the next month is their turn again. They like this and try hard to stay close to a friend. I also assign who gets to pick the story everyday, both in the a.m. and p.m. and everyone tries hard to be on time or they get skipped until next time.

To keep anecdotal notes on students and notes from parents organized I use a binder. In the binder is a set of alphabetical dividers where students are filed by their last name. Each student has a sheet with all personal info on it that I get from the office. Then I record all my notes on the child and add pages as the year progresses if I need to. Behind this page I insert a page protector for each student. I store ALL notes from parents regardless of what the note is about. It is so easy during the year if I need to check on something or look back at what a parent requested. I never lose any notes from parents this way and all my notes on students are in one place.

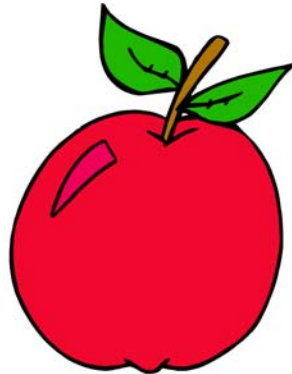
# The Alphabet Chant

The second letter shown represents the letter's sound. All vowels have the short vowel sound. Also, the song is sung as a call and response. The teacher (or child leader) says one line and then the class repeats it. If you are teaching sign language the children can make the letter sign with the chant.

*Sung to Frere Jacques*

(letter) (sound) (object)

A	/a/	apple	(Children repeat)	Q	/q/	queen	(Children repeat)
B	/b/	ball	"	R	/r/	rain	"
C	/c/	cat,	"	S	/s/	snake	"
D	/d/	doll	"	T	/t/	train	"
E	/e/	elephant	"	U	/u/	umbrella	"
F	/f/	frog	"	V	/v/	van	"
G	/g/	goat	"	W	/w/	wagon	"
H	/h/	hog	"	X	/x/	??? (be silent)"	
I	/i/	insect	"	y	/y/	yo-yo	"
J	/j/	jet	"	Z	/z/	zero	"
K	/k/	kangaroo	"	Now I know	my ABC's	"	
L	/l/	let	"	I am a hero!	"		
M	/m/	mouse	"				
N	/n/	nurse	"				
O	/o/	octopus	"				
P	/p/	purse	"				

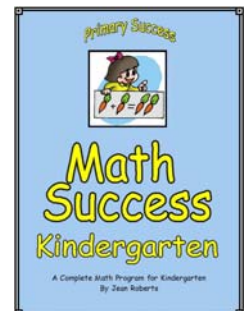


## The Math Success Program

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 Grade Three. Math Success is a complete program with teaching strategies, lesson plans, student practice sheets and assessment.

Go to our website to see sample lessons!

*"I have been teaching for 14 years and have never had a group of Grade Twos come this far in Math ever. I totally love this program!"*



# Math Ideas

## Kindergarten

"We count 'heads' to do attendance each day. One child goes around the circle and pretends to touch each head as he/she counts. The child must make the motion as the number is said - not before or after. We practice doing this. Then when they are counting objects we talk about doing this - picking up or touching an object at exactly the same time as the number is spoken. This really helps the children who are just learning one-to-one correspondence."

"We practice making number patterns to 5 and drill the number cards so the students learn to 'see' that there are 4 things instead of counting them each time. This is hard for some kiddies but after we practice it all year they are much improved."

"As we learn each number, the children learn to print it. Some numbers need a lot of practice. We do them every day with fingers on the carpet, on the chalkboard, with different crayons and paint, and finally on lines. We do a lot of directional cues to help them know which way to go in the beginning - some go left and some go right...."



## Grade One

"I like to use huge floor number lines to learn simple addition and subtraction questions. I have the students use the same words each time they do a question..... 'Stand on the first number..... Jump the second number.'" Once they understand that and the concept of reversing addends to get the same result, we change the words a bit - 'Stand on the biggest number ..... Jump the smaller number.'" By this time they can see that it is easier to do this, especially in a question like  $1 + 5 = \underline{\quad}$ . I find that if the children really understand this, the number facts are learned much easier."

Teach 'equals' with a balance scale. Try balancing different classroom objects. Instead of saying, "Does it balance?" ask, "Is it equal?" ..... after explaining that equal means 'the same'. Then use classroom blocks. Get the concept that  $1 = 1$ .... and if you add another to one side it is no longer equal. Give the children balancing scales and one person makes an unequal pattern on the scale and the other makes it equal. Have the children talk about what they are doing to make the pattern equal.

### Primary Success Publications Art Books

#### Art Through the Year

Here are hundreds of great primary art ideas and activities! This book contains art ideas for Autumn, Halloween, Christmas, Winter, Valentines, Spring and Easter; and Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Groundhog Day and St. Patrick's Day, too. Your children will have fun doing the wonderful projects. This is a great collection!

#### Successful Art Lessons

This new book is suitable for all primary grades K to 3, with a wide range of skills. The book has chapters on line, shapes, drawing, colour, pattern, modelling, Canadian (and other) artists and more - and uses a wide variety of mediums. There are photos of the lesson ideas and lots of suggestions to add interest.

# More Math

## Grade Two

Teach the clue words for addition: sum, total, in all

Teach the clue words for subtraction: difference, how much/many more, left

Do lots of problem solving. Teach the students the steps involved in answering a problem.

- What facts have we been given?
- What do we want to know?
- What will we do to find the answer?
- Give the equation.
- Put the answer in a sentence, orally



Teach the Grade Twos all the addition and subtraction 'tricks' (these were in a freebie - if you don't have them, just ask!)

## Grade Three

"To begin the idea of rounding numbers, I draw a mountain on a chart. Zeros go at the left and right base of the mountain and 5 at the top of the mountain. I then write the numbers 1 - 4 up the left side of the mountain and 6 - 9 on the right side of the mountain. I have a toy car and pretend to drive it up the mountain. This car does not have good brakes! If I stop on the 1, 2, 3, or 4 to admire the view, the car will roll back to the zero on the left side of the mountain. Sometimes the car goes over the hill and I try to stop on 6, 7, 8, or 9 - and because the brakes won't hold it rolls to the zero on the right. When I stop on the 5 the car wants to go forward so it rolls to the right side.

Then..... we round numbers to 100 to the nearest 10, thinking about the mountain and the little car. Ones numbers 1 - 4 we roll back, 5 - 9 we roll forward to the next ten."

"This is an idea I use to show one thousand. Take your class on a walk to gather pebbles, autumn leaves or dandelions. Ask each child to gather ten of the item at a time. Place the bunches of ten on the ground until you have ten rows of ten bunches each. Beginning at one end of a row, have one person pick up and group the bunches in that row as the rest of the class count by tens. For each row, repeat the process until you have ten piles of one hundred items. Then, pile by pile, put them into a giant pile as you count by hundreds to one thousand!"

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## Simple P.E. Ideas

- Pool some of the P.E. time with the classes in the primary grades. For example, book the gym every day for 15 minutes at the same time and do aerobics to music with several classes. Have a music source and jazzy music, one leader who has done some aerobics (or fake it!), teach the children to spread out to have a personal space, and exercise all together. This is fun and good for teachers, too!

- On days when there is an outdoor recess, take five minutes and the whole school run laps around the playground. You can add the distances run and do math with the numbers in the higher grades or see if the whole school can run the distance to the capital city (Social Studies).

- Interest the children in doing more active sports in the longer recesses. Teach football, freeze tag, red rover, Frisbees, hula-hoops, kickball, dodge ball, different versions of tag, etc. Play 'Follow the Leader', learn to skip and put out skipping ropes in the breaks, teach hopscotch.

- Play 'Move It!' One person starts and performs an action, nods his head, for example, and everyone does it. They continue to do it and the next person adds another movement, taps the foot, perhaps. Everyone does this and continues to do the two movements. The third person adds another movement. This continues until it becomes too complicated!

## Sharing Time

"In my grade one class I schedule 4 kids per day for show and tell. Their day stays the same and it is on the calendars I send home. If there is a holiday or pro-d day the children who miss their day are allowed to bring their show and tell the following day. Other than those special occasions if a child forgets on their day, they miss their turn for the week."

"I only have one child share each day on their special day of being the line leader, chief helper, etc. They are to think a lot about what they bring and find something that is really interesting. No toys allowed!"

Sometimes you can ask for specific 'show and tell'.... here are some ideas:

- Bring a hat to school and tell why and when you would wear the hat.
- Bring a stuffed animal and tell some facts about the real animal.
- Bring a collection - or an item from a collection.

Tie the sharing time to the different units you do.

- For science, bring an object that fits with the science unit - a bird or wasp's nest, a fossil, different rocks, etc.
- For social studies, bring pictures or items meaningful to your family, things from other parts of the world, etc.

- For math, take turns bringing an estimation jar.

- For literacy, share a good book, telling why you like it.

- In Kindergarten - you will teach colours. Have the students bring something in the colour of the week. When teaching the letter sounds, have the students bring something that begins with the sound of the week.



The general rule for sharing time is to bring something interesting that is not a toy. In Kindergarten, however, you may get shy children to share toys more easily than other objects.

Know what your purpose is for having sharing time - is it oral language? Public speaking? Listening skills? Insist that your children be polite listeners and ask intelligent questions or make positive comments. The speaker should look at the listeners, stand straight, speak clearly, etc.

"The night before their turn, the child (with parental help if necessary) writes three clues about the show and tell item. The first clue must tell us the beginning letter. The other two clues can be whatever they like. At show and tell time the child keeps the item hidden in their backpack. He/she reads us the clues and the class try to guess what the item is. For example:

1. It starts with the letter B.
2. It has lots of pictures.
3. It came from the library.

In the beginning the guesses can be wild, but we talk about listening to the clues and thinking. It is also good writing practice!

### Homework Calendars for 2012-2013

Teachers and parents love this great resource! The children take a photocopied page home each month. The calendar gives them an interesting educational activity to do each day, suitable for the grade. This gives the children homework to do, but there is no preparation or marking for the busy teacher. This year there is also a monthly page for parents, and helpful things on the Primary Success website for parents. Homework Calendars are available for Kindergarten, Grade One, Two and Three.



# Autumn Ideas

Making leaf rubbings is one of the easiest things to do and is fun for all ages. Simply lay leaves down, vein side up, place a piece of paper over them and rub across them with a crayon.

## Stained Glass Leaves

You will need squares of construction paper, wax paper and crayon shavings. Take two squares and draw the same leaf shape on each. Cut it out so you have a leaf shaped 'hole' in both pieces of paper. Cut two squares of wax paper slightly smaller than the paper squares. Sprinkle fall colored crayon shavings on the one of the sheets of wax paper. Lay the other piece on top. The adult places a cloth on top of the wax paper and iron it until the crayon bits have melted. Glue the wax paper in between the two pieces of construction paper. Hang them in the window.

## Keeping Leaves

Press leaves between the pages of heavy books. You can also lay pretty leaves on clear contact paper and put another piece on top. This is a good way to make a quick leaf display without the mess of dried leaf bits! Flat autumn flowers, seeds and other items can be added. The children could make small ones using the clear packing tape (but perhaps you should do the top layer of tape!) - they could put in tiny flowers, small coloured leaves, grass, etc.

## Leaf Hangings

Collect coloured leaves of all shapes and sizes. Give each student a whiteboard or individual chalkboard and a 20 inch piece of wax paper. Put the wax paper on top of the board and then lay a few of the most attractive leaves on the wax paper so it makes a pretty design. Lay another piece of wax paper on top. When done and it is time to iron the wax papers together to seal it, bring the board to a table where you are ironing and carefully slide the wax papers and the leaves off the board and iron them, covered with a soft cloth. When cool, trim the ends on the paper cutter. If you want to hang these from the ceiling add a top and bottom border with strips of orange or yellow paper. If you put them on the windows, just leave the ends or cut shapes around the leaf design.

## Autumn Math

Estimating - How many candy corns/acorns/leaves are in a jar? How many acorns we can hold in one hand?

Graphing - Graph leaves by color, shape, size.

Probability - Put equal numbers of red, yellow, orange, and brown leaves in a bag. Then each child takes a leaf out of the bag and adds it to the graph. Discuss the probability of getting a leaf of a certain colour.

Sorting - Sort the leaves by shape, species, colour, edge design, etc. Sort a basket of nuts by type, color, and size.

Patterning - When leaves or nuts have been sorted, make patterns.

## Corn Flowers

Using the dry feed corn on the cob you can buy at the local feed cut the cob across and print with the cut end. These make pretty fall flowers like small sunflowers.

## Leaf Stencils

Gather some leaves that are perfect shapes and paint the back of them, the side with the veins showing, with autumn colours or red, orange and yellow. Lay the leaf down on the paper (or the paper down on the leaf) and gently rub. After it has been rubbed, carefully lift the leaf up to see the print.



## Autumn

Leaves are falling, dancing, swirling

Piling high along the street

Leaves that scatter when you kick them

Leaves that crunch beneath your feet.

## Odds and Ends

"One thing I do in my newsletters for the first two months is to add a section of 'What we did this week'. I explain to parents that they should ask open ended questions to encourage their kids to talk about what they did in school. In this section I simply list some of what we did - not even full sentences, such as, 'Read Mrs. Wishy Washy' and 'Tasted seven apples'. This way mom can ask which apples did the class like best? What did Mrs. W. W. do? Parents always comment that this helps get the conversations flowing."

Studies have shown that oral language abilities are related to beginning reading achievement.

Children begin school with varying experience in oral language. Among the reasons for the differences are the home literacy environment, and the preschool (or lack of) experiences.

One study shows that the number of words heard at home per hour by 1- and 2-year-olds learning to talk range from 2,150 to a low of 620 in an average hour. By the age of 3 a child in an academic household will have heard three million words and a child in a low academic household will have only heard one million.

We can't reverse this - in fact, as we are discussing this the higher children are continuing to widen the gap because experience and ease with language leads to faster learning. That does not mean that we can't improve the oral language skills of our children!

Here are some ideas:

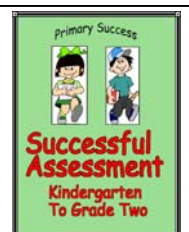
- Read lots of books to your class. Choose books with interesting stories and ones with a vocabulary that is higher than the students' spoken vocabulary. Gradually increase the difficulty. Read with pleasure and animation.
- Discuss the stories, using some of the difficult words. If, for example, the princess is wearing a scarlet dress, discuss the colour repeating the word 'scarlet' a number of times. Ask, "Is anyone here wearing something scarlet?" to bring the word into familiar context.
- Discuss the pictures in the book, using words above the children's spoken vocabulary whenever suitable.
- Have the children who have low language skills sit close to you and the book to keep their close attention.
- Re-tell and sequence the story or have these children do puppet shows or act out the plot.
- In sharing time, when a low language child has told a story, tell it back to him with other words and discuss the topics to increase the vocabulary.
- Do themes that interest the lower children and widen the vocabulary by using new and different words as the theme is taught and shared.
- Have these children speak in complete sentences when they want something - 'Please may I go to the washroom?' 'I don't have a red crayon', etc.
- Teach and then correct grammar - 'Me and Mom went home....' 'gots' etc.
- Don't talk down to your children. Some teachers speak differently in the classroom, choosing very simple words. This does not help to increase their oral language skills.

"On the first week I train my children to pass out and collect papers. I have my students in rows, so the first student in the row gets handed enough papers for the row. He takes one and passes the pile back, as does the others in the row. The opposite is done handing them in - the back person hands his forward, the next hands his own and the first one ahead until all are at the front.

When I had students sitting in groups, one student got the papers, handed them out and collected them after the lesson. Teaching these simple tasks saved lots of time!"

### Successful Assessment - Kindergarten to Grade Two

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 and perfect for the beginning of the school year!



## More Odds and Ends.....

### Extra Supplies

"I have a tree on a bulletin board near the door for the first two months of school - it is there for the beginning of the year, the first parent conference and open house. There are apples on the tree and on each apple is an item that parents can donate to the classroom if they wish. They can choose a more expensive item or one that is less expensive or even free recycled items. This is, of course, optional.

Here are some of my 'wishes'!"

boxes of tissue	self-adhesive Velcro strips
ziplock baggies of all sizes	ice-cream buckets with lids
used computers	disinfectant wipes
CD's	white paper plates
paper towel	ink cartridges for class printer
post-it notes	glitter glue
stickers	fancy crayons or pens
books	wrapping paper tubes
games	etc!



"We play a math game called 'Slap!' I invented this to give the students practice in making 10s. I give two students a pile of playing cards without the 10 or face cards, and they know that the ace is one. The two players take turns taking a card and putting it face upward on their individual pile. At first we talk about what would be needed to make a 10, and then they do it themselves. The first person to see two cards that equal 10 slaps the card and takes the other person's cards."

"I think many children who really struggle with friendship issues are actually unpopular because they have serious problems with personal space...they don't know their boundaries. They need to be taught very specifically about personal space. I have a child that goes right up to other children and gestures in their face. I've actually had her visualize that everyone has a box around them...and I often remind her of that box when she gets inside other's space. Now I can just make a box with my hands to remind this girl about the 'space' problem, and she gets the hint, without undue attention being drawn to the problem."

## Popular Primary Success Resources!

### 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.

### Successful Spelling - Grade One, Grade Two, Grade Three

There are simple, effective daily lesson plans with interesting strategies, practice sheets, word wall ideas and take-home practice sheets. This program is widely used! Price:

### Successful Writing Lessons - Grade Two, Grade Three

Each book has more than 100 short lessons to begin your writing sessions. These teach the necessary writing skills in a skill progression with lots of interesting strategies. These mini-lessons will greatly improve your students' writing. There are lots of reproducible sheets, too!

## 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 P.S.P. 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.*



### Successful Phonics - Part 1 / Part 2

These programs 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 students. 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.

**Sight Reading - Start Right Kindergarten** This program teaches the first 30 words in Kindergarten with hands-on strategies and lots of interesting reading practice and little books. Teachers love it!

### Favourite Websites

I mentioned this blog a year ago from Barb, a teacher in Sooke, near Victoria, B.C. I have 'known' Barb on-line for more than 10 years and admire her work. I consider her one of the best! I tuned in again and couldn't leave for ages as I followed her life and teaching ideas!

<http://gradeonderful.blogspot.com/>

Have a look at <http://www.rhymezone.com/>

Type in your word, then pull down the menu to see rhymes, homophones, antonyms, synonyms - and more."

<http://www.carlscorner.us.com/> Cherry Carl has evolved much as I have - a retired teacher who can't put it down!

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