

Guided Reading in the Virtual and Socially Distanced Classroom

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Description:

Guided reading is a magical time in the kindergarten classroom. Students show tremendous growth and their confidence soars as they are introduced to new sight words, working with sounds, and learning how to use strategies. This school year was very challenging. Students had to be 6 feet apart and meeting at the kidney table was not possible.

After assessing our classes we implemented guided reading in the virtual and socially distanced classrooms. We researched and found new ways to engage students in guided reading in these two very unique classroom setups.

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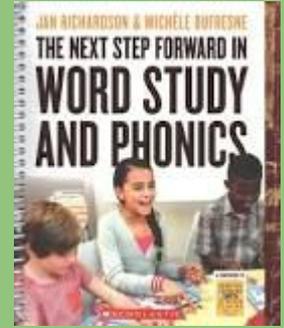
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Focus of Plan: Guided Reading and Interventions to improve letter/sound recognition (Socially Distanced Classroom)

Grade Level Audience: Elementary (Kindergarten)



Major Steps of the Plan:

1. Assessed using ESGI software.
2. Students were grouped based on letter knowledge.
3. Students' seats were positioned in the same area and teacher moved around to each "group" with a rolling cart.
4. Students worked in reading caves (under desks) or in taped off areas.

Socially Distanced Guided Reading



- Levels were seated near each other.
- Teacher moved around bringing materials with her.
- Other students worked in independent stations and on chromebooks.

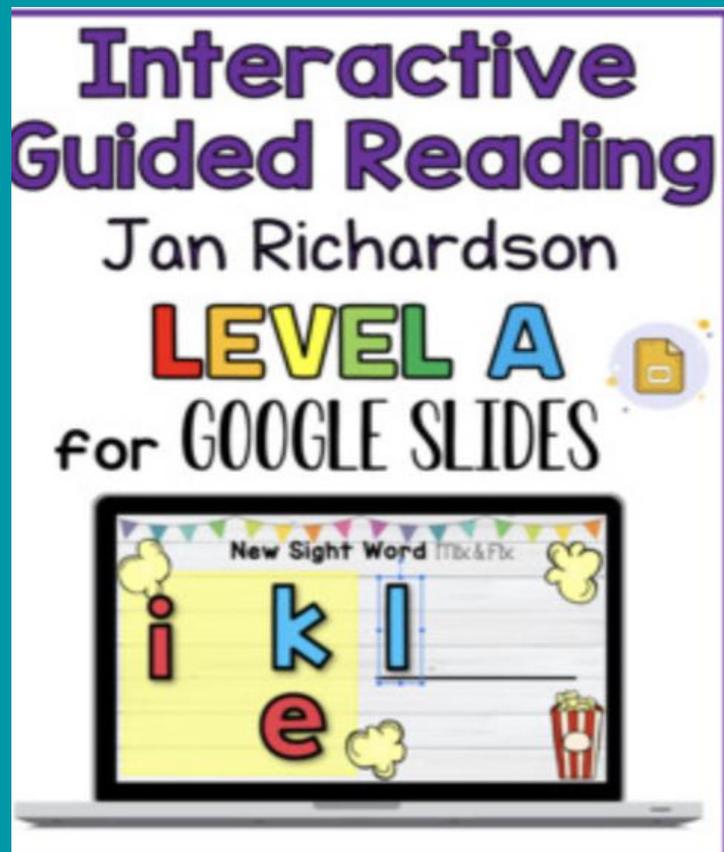
Focus of Plan: Guided Reading and Interventions to improve letter/sound recognition (Virtual)

Grade Level Audience: Elementary (Kindergarten)

Major Steps of the Plan:

1. All students were assessed using the ESGI software
2. Based on their knowledge of letters initially, students were grouped and given a specific time to meet with the teacher biweekly over zoom (Monday and Wednesday). Each group with the teacher was about 15-20 minutes long and then students were given independent assignments on google classroom to strengthen their skills in word work/phonics. These skills were not new. They were spiral review concepts from previous weeks.

Virtual Guided Reading



With the help of TPT, I was able to find this AMAZING resource to use for guided reading for any text. At the beginning of each lesson with each group, I would share my screen. Students would be able to see elements of our guided reading lesson such as the cover of the book for our book intro, a discussion prompt, and vocabulary words in the story we needed to know! I would share the text on the screen and we would read the text as it appeared.

Students were then able to interact with the lesson through the following activities:

- Teaching a new sight word: students were able to interact with the slides and complete activities with our new sight words such as: "What's Missing", "Mix & Fix" with "magnetic" letters, "Table Writing" and "Write It"

- Word Study: Sound Boxes for each student to make words, picture sorts and slides for listening/changing beginning, medial and ending sounds

- Guided Writing: students were able to edit their own 3 word, 4 word and 5 word sentence slides (since students were learning to type, we are still trying to master these skills)

Initial, Mid-Year Final Assessment Results: Socially Distanced Classroom

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Uppercase Letters	3%	80%	93%
Lowercase Letters	4%	80%	93%
Sounds	15%	71%	89%

Initial and Final Assessment Results: (Virtual)

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Uppercase Letters	10%	76%	87%
Lowercase Letters	13%	78%	87%
Sounds	38%	77%	89%

Family Involvement

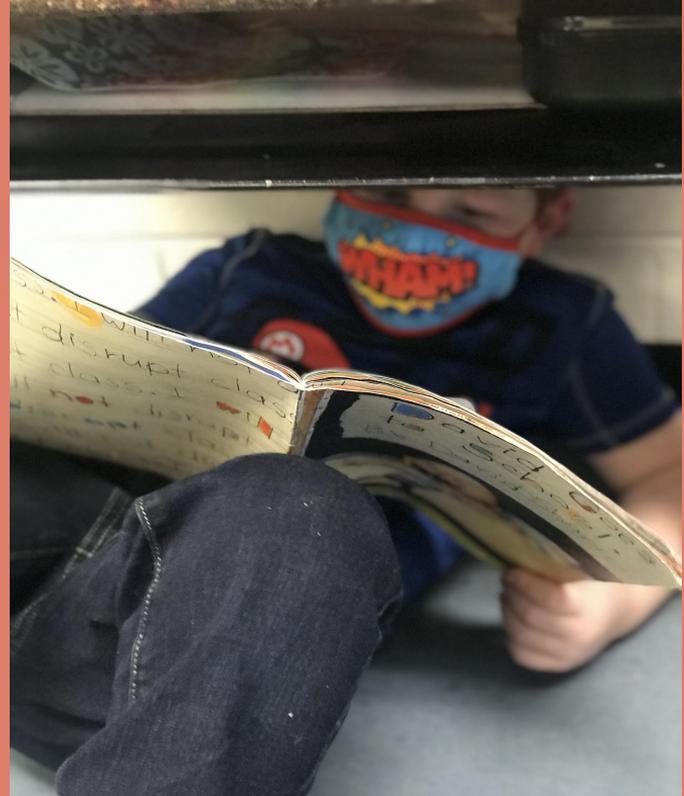


Family Zoom Session

- Family Literacy Drive Thru Nights
- Video Tutorials on Class Dojo
- Family Zoom Sessions
- Newsletters
- Monthly Family Projects
- Bi-Monthly Centers with Video Explanations
- Technology Navigation (logging students on, learning to use new technologies and helping students learn)
- Virtual Parent Question/Info sessions via zoom

Major Successes:

- Growth! Our students became confident emergent readers, despite the challenges this year has brought.
- Students learned to navigate and use technology that helped us effectively teach vocabulary, word patterns and other important skills.



Student reading in one of our
“caves.”

Socially Distanced Classroom Challenges

- Time
- Sanitizing
- Space
- Individual Materials



Student matching sounds in a “work zone.”

Virtual Classroom Challenges

In the virtual classroom, student's consistency and attendance to our groups was a major challenge. Guardians didn't understand that these groups were in place to help guide their students and strengthen their weaker skills or just simply didn't want to log their student back into zoom, so many would just opt out . Many students also switched back and forth from in person to virtual learning which made keeping things consistent very hard.

Another concern at one point was the size of the groups. There was only one virtual teacher for kindergarten and there were 30 students in the class during the peak of the year. It was difficult making sure all students needs were being met in groups that were larger, especially virtual.

Ideas for Next Year

- Parent/Guardian Training Sessions
- Reading Tool Kits for each student
- Start Earlier! Kids are ready!



Student working in the Lexia reading program.



Student Tool Kit

Useful Resources:

The Next Step Forward in Word Study by Jan Richardson and Michele Dufresne

Pioneer Valley Word Study Cards

Digital magnetic letter board

Google Slides

Zoom

Digital texts (Reading A-Z, Little Books, etc.)

