



03 September 2021

To: Subject Advisors, Teachers, Departmental Heads.

Topic: Use of read aloud sessions to promote reading in primary schools during literacy month

Message objective are to:

- Promote reading in primary schools.
- Maximise reading strategies in primary schools.
- Increase numbers of learners participating in reading activities in schools.
- Promote reading during the literacy month.

International Literacy Day is an international observance, celebrated each year on the 8th September. The aim is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities, and societies. One way of promoting reading in primary schools is through the read aloud sessions. Below are steps teachers can follow to promote reading during the 8th September 2021 Literacy Day.

Materials needed: 1 storybook for you. Vocabulary word flashcards.

Preparation

- Select a small book to read to the learners. Reminder: Book can be at a higher level than the learners' own reading level.
- Read the book at least twice before the reading period. Identify 2-3 places in the story to ask prediction questions.
- Select 1-2 vocabulary words from the book to teach the learners.

Welcome

- Learners should sit down quickly and quietly on the mat or at desks.
- Welcome learners to the reading period and remind them of the library/reading period rules.
- Explain the plan for today's reading period.

Before reading

- Introduce the book (read title, author's name, illustrator's name) and show the cover picture. If the book is small, walk around and make sure that all learners see the cover picture.
- Ask prediction/comprehension questions. For example:
 - What do you think this story might be about?
 - Who do you think are the main characters?
 - What do you think happens to the main characters?
- Teach learners 1-2 new vocabulary words. Use words in your own sentences.

During reading

- Read slowly and clearly with expression and gestures. Read following the punctuation marks.
- Ask prediction questions: What do you think will happen next?
- Ask or remind learners of the meaning of the new vocabulary words as you read them.

After reading

- Review what happened in the book: Ask *Who? What? Where? When? How?* questions.
- Help learners retell the story: What happened first? What happened next?
- Ask "why" question(s): Why do you think the character did or felt that?
- Learners check out books to take home if the school has resources to allow for this



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