



16 September 2021

To: Subject Advisors, Teachers, Circuit Managers, Principals, School Management Teams and Departmental Heads.

Topic: Use of read-aloud sessions to promote reading in primary schools during Literacy month as an initiative to reboot the system

Message Objectives are to:

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

As we are about to complete the International Literacy month activities, the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) together with the Department of Basic Education (DBE) has through the National Reading Coalition (NRC) initiated a platform that will enable teachers to access messages that will assist to enable the schooling system and its stakeholders to close gaps created by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is being achieved by coordinating messages that will help reboot the approaches teachers should employ in the classroom and through support from teachers. Below is a message highlighting activities that could be coordinated to help reboot the curriculum.

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

Preparation

- Select a small book to read to the learners. Reminder: Books 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 the 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?
 - Whom do you think the main characters are?
 - What do you think happens to the main characters?

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?

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