



28 October 2022

To: Subject Advisors, Teachers, Circuit Managers, principals, parents, church leaders, School Management Teams, and Departmental Heads.

Topic: Coordinating the management of books in homes and at schools as part of Building Back Better

Message Objectives are to:

- Help parents manage books in homes.
- Help teachers create a safe space to read books in schools.

Though we are no longer under lockdown restrictions, it does not mean that we have completely survived COVID-19. During OMICRON, reading should continue to be championed at schools and in homes. Also, the reading resources should be carefully managed to avoid any spread of the virus. Below are tips on how reading can be managed.

Books must be displayed in homes and schools so children/learners can easily find and select them. Books to be read must be at the children/learners correct reading level. A learner's or a child's choice of text level is an indicator of their reading confidence. Observe their choices to identify where they struggle with reading. A parent can also record his/her observation and advise the teacher of the child at school.

Displayed books must show their colourful covers and interesting images that entice learners or children to reach out and take one. Books on display make it easier for learners/children to choose one that interests them at their reading level or slightly above to challenge their reading skills. Generally, learners in schools have an intuitive recognition of text that matches their reading comfort level. A confident reader will select text that is above their reading comfort zone. If a learner consistently selects books at a lower reading level, without progressing to the next level, the teacher can guide them to find a slightly more challenging text and read it together with them to build their confidence.

It is important to care for books so teachers and parents should teach learners/children on how to care for books. They should explain rules that help keep things organised and pleasant for everyone. Teachers in schools can create a colourful and attractive book care poster with clearly written instructions. They should remind learners about the book care rules.

BOOK CARE rules

- **Wash and dry hands before opening a book.**
- **Turn pages carefully at the top right corner.**
- **Do not fold pages, use a book mark.**
- **Never write, draw in, or cut up a book.**
- **Keep the book in a safe, clean place**

From: Bailey Nkuna (bailey@nect.org.za)