

# simply small groups

Differentiating  
Literacy Learning  
in Any Setting

Strategies  
for in-person  
and online  
instruction!  
...

debbie diller

CORWIN Literacy

*Thank you*

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INTEREST IN  
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Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from *Simply Small Groups*, by Debbie Diller.

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# How to Determine *the* Child's Developmental Reading Stage

Listen to children read. Have them tell you about their reading. Look at their writing. If they already know how to do everything in one column, move to the column to the right until you have found their developmental reading stage. That is where you will work with them in small group.

	EMERGENT READER STAGE	EARLY READER STAGE	TRANSITIONAL READER STAGE	FLUENT READER STAGE
At this stage, students will be learning to ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Look at print</li> <li>● Read and write name</li> <li>● Hear and manipulate sounds in words</li> <li>● Map sounds onto letters</li> <li>● Read twenty-five high-frequency words (and write some, too)</li> <li>● One-to-one match</li> <li>● Read and write CVC words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use chunks to read short words fluently (<i>/br/ush/</i>)</li> <li>● Read one- to two-syllable words with short vowels</li> <li>● Read one- to two-syllable words with long vowels, vowel + r, and variant vowels (e.g., <i>ai, ay; ar, ir, au, oo, ow</i>)</li> <li>● Read and write 100+ high-frequency words</li> <li>● Predict, make connections, and discuss what they read</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read silently</li> <li>● Read longer text in phrases with intonation and expression</li> <li>● Decode longer multisyllable words using syllable types</li> <li>● Read longer words with all kinds of vowel patterns</li> <li>● Read most one- or two-syllable words by sight</li> <li>● Read and comprehend series books and longer texts with fewer pictures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decode most words quickly and easily (even long words)</li> <li>● Know and use Greek and Latin roots to figure out meanings of new words</li> <li>● Expand knowledge of prefixes and suffixes as they decode and learn new word meanings</li> <li>● Read longer texts (e.g., novels, informational pieces) over multiple days with deeper understanding</li> <li>● Read and comprehend a wider variety of genres (e.g., fantasy, myths, legends, graphic novels)</li> </ul>

	EMERGENT READER STAGE	EARLY READER STAGE	TRANSITIONAL READER STAGE	FLUENT READER STAGE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Listen and comprehend stories and informational text</li> <li>● Speak in sentences with expanding vocabulary</li> <li>● Label pictures, make lists, write one to three short sentences about something they know</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Understand story elements and central ideas when reading</li> <li>● Retell what they read</li> <li>● Read more fluently</li> <li>● Use new vocabulary as they listen to and read text</li> <li>● Speak in longer, more complex sentences</li> <li>● Write stories, information, and poems that are short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read and comprehend a wider variety of genres (folktales, fables, stories, biographies)</li> <li>● Use text features to understand informational text and identify central ideas</li> <li>● Read and pay attention to meanings of new words</li> <li>● Write more extended pieces (fiction, nonfiction, poems)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Understand more complex plots with numerous episodes and changes in setting</li> <li>● Use text features and structures independently to comprehend more deeply</li> <li>● Read with increasing fluency both orally and silently</li> <li>● Write more complex pieces for a variety of authentic purposes</li> </ul>
Matching reading levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● F&amp;P Levels pre-A through C</li> <li>● Reading A-Z Levels aa-C</li> <li>● DRA2 Levels A-4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● F&amp;P Levels D-I</li> <li>● Reading A-Z Levels D-I</li> <li>● DRA2 Levels 6-16</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● F&amp;P Levels J-M</li> <li>● Reading A-Z Levels J-P</li> <li>● DRA2 Levels 18-28</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● F&amp;P Levels N and up</li> <li>● Reading A-Z Levels Q and up</li> <li>● DRA2 Levels 30 and up</li> </ul>
For corresponding Lexile levels at any stage go to <a href="https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search">https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search</a>				

Use matching reading levels as a guide to selecting text for small groups. See *A Quick Look at Reading Levels* for more information on leveling systems.