

K-3 Literacy Pilot: MoMEntum Common Professional Learning #9.0 Webinar

Small Group Instruction: A K-3 Literacy Essential

Learning Intentions

Educators will:

develop a common understanding of the significance of small group instruction and the importance of integrating small group instruction within a complete literacy program.

discuss how to develop small groups for instruction.

develop a common understanding of small group instructional models.

discuss productive independent work during small group instruction.



Small Group Instruction

What are the benefits of small group instruction compared to whole group instruction?

Small group

Whole group



Benefits of Whole Group

Whole group instruction allows teachers to teach new concepts, skills, or strategies to the entire group of students.

Whole group comes together for direct instruction by the teacher combined with opportunities for students to engage in conversations about the information presented with more teacher support.

Whole group instruction is often used when introducing new information. Components of a comprehensive literacy program which can utilize whole group instruction include reading aloud, shared reading, reading mini-lessons, writing aloud, shared writing, interactive writing, or writing mini-lessons.



Benefits of Small Group

Small group instruction affords the opportunity to provide more focused attention than is possible within a whole group.

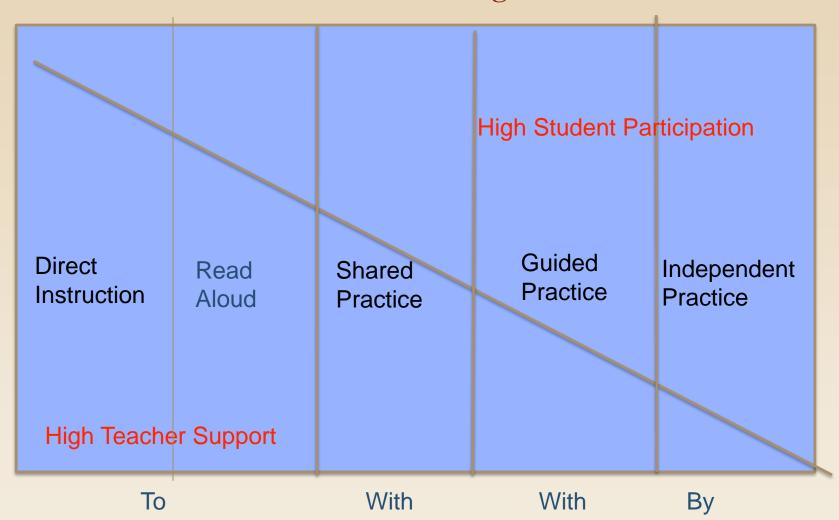
Small group allows students to practice new concepts, skills, or strategies previously taught to the entire group of students with less teacher support.

Small groups can be arranged to include a homogenous or heterogeneous mix allowing for different perspectives and supports.

The ultimate benefit of small group instruction is guided practice.



Gradual Release of Responsibility Model, Pearson & Gallagher 1983





Small Group

Think about a group to which you belong. What are the characteristics that lead to a sense of belonging to that group?









Types of Small Group Instruction

List ways in which you have grouped students together for small group instruction.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- **5**.
- 6.
- 7.
- • •



Types of Small Group Instruction

Guided Reading (leveled texts)

Strategy Groups

Phonics

Vocabulary

Close Reading

Shared Reading

Writing

Genre



Using Data to form Small Groups

NWEA

Genre

Literature or informational

Vocabulary

Language

Writing

Foundational Skills

Lexile

RIT

Leveled Text Reading Assessment

Fountas & Pinnell Reading Assessment

Developmental Reading Assessment

Reading Inventory

Curriculum Sequence

Formative Assessments

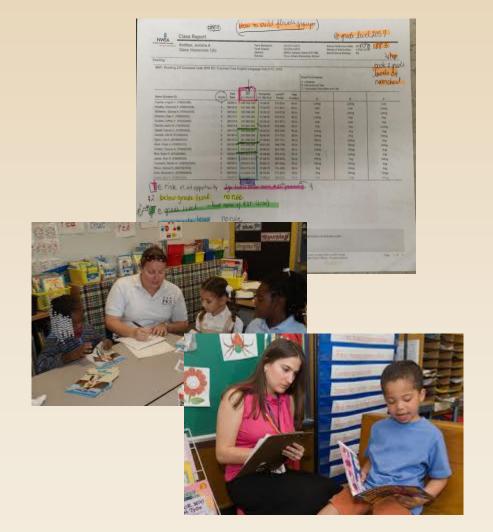
Running Records

Observations

1:1 Conferencing

Observation Survey

Word Journeys





Commonalities of Small Group Instruction

Small groups usually:

- have 2-6 students.
- meet for a certain amount of minutes.
- meet for a certain number of days.

are formed based on similar needs gathered

from data.

 change regularly based on current data.

gather in a common space.



Commonalities of Small Group Instruction

Teachers:

- carefully select instructional materials
- craft a lesson plan for that group
- have a hierarchy of prompts to consider when working with students.
- consider the number of groups
- consider how often to meet with each group





Commonalities of Small Group Instruction

Students:

- are applying the skills/strategies that were taught whole group.
- are receiving less support from the teacher as they problem solve.
- are engaging in collaborative conversations to deepen understanding.
- are highly engaged and active in the lesson.



Small Groups In Action

Video

Guided Reading

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWDnN7nGqiA

Kindergarten Small Group

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ipAjLWpeBA&t=4s

Strategy Group

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azi2iASKv3l



Independent Literacy Practice

While I am working with a small group, what are the rest of the children doing?

They are independently engaged in meaningful, productive and purposeful literacy.

Read to self
Read with a partner
Word work practice
Writing



Routines and Expectations

The most lavishly appointed classroom may turn into shambles if routines for using it have not been established.

New Zealand Department of Education



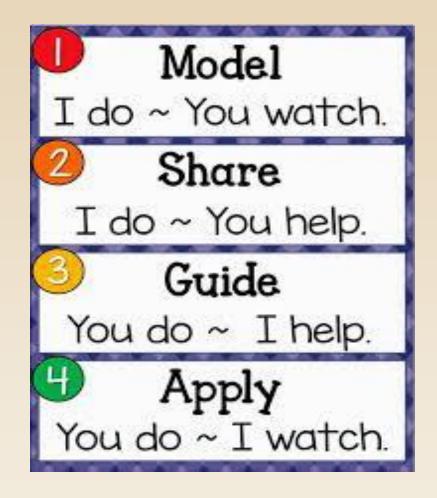
Routines and Expectations

Establishing Routines and Expectations

- 1. Talk about and demonstrate explicitly the literacy task yourself.
- 2. Have one two students demonstrate the literacy task in front of peers.
- 3. Provide guided practice with small groups of students.
- 4. Observe students implementing the literacy task.
- 5. Teacher can start working in small groups.
- 6. Repeat steps 1-5 at any point literacy tasks are not independent.



Routines and Expectations





Success Criteria

I will know I am successful if I

- can identify the importance of small group instruction.
- can explain how to develop small groups.
- can categorize types small group instruction.
- can recognize purposeful, meaningful and productive independent literacy tasks.



Completing the Survey

Copy and paste the link to the survey into a browser window.

http://stateofmaine.adobeconnect.com/pyrsrgkr6fz6/

Complete the survey.

A certificate of one contact hour will be issued by your literacy coach.

