Getting Started with Accelerated Reader

http://www.renaissance.com/Resources/Videos

What is Accelerated Reader?

A supplemental reading program

- It supports and enhances reading programs already being used

- It is designed to be part of a comprehensive reading program

- It is personalized for each student

How does Accelerated Reader Work?

- Practice: Teachers schedule time for daily reading practice, in addition to the instructional reading period. Students read books that match their individual ability levels and interests.

- Assess: When a student finishes a book, a reading practice test is taken to assess general comprehension of the book.

- Data: Accelerated Reader scores the quiz, keeps track of the results, and generates reports. This data helps you monitor student practice, guide students to appropriate books, and target instruction.

Practice makes perfect

- Reading books that are too hard results in frustration.

- Reading books that are too easy does little to improve skills.

- Optimal learning takes place when the book is at the right level … this is called the

Zone of Proximal Development

Finding the right book …

Book level

- Is determined by the average length of the sentences in the book, the average length of the words, and the average grade level of the words.

- Book level is reported in terms of grade. A book level of 4.5 means that the text could likely be read by a student whose reading skills are at grade 4, fifth month of the school year.

Finding the right book …
Interest level

- Indicates for what age group a book is appropriate.

- LG … means lower grades, K-3

- MG … means middle grades, 4-8

- UG … means upper grades, 9-12

- *Hank the Cowdog*, book level of 4.5, interest level of MG.

- *The Sun Also Rises*, book level of 4.4, interest level of UG.

- *Arthur Throws a Tantrum*, book level of 4.9, interest level of LG

Finding the right book …
Points

- Points are assigned to each book based on its length and difficulty.

- Students earn points by taking tests.

- If they receive 100 percent, they receive all the points. If the test score is 90 percent, the student receives 90 percent of the points.

- To earn points a student must:

  - Score at least 60 percent on a 5 or 10 question quiz.

  - Score at least 70 percent on a 20 question quiz.

How do I find the ZPD?

- STAR testing with Accelerated Reader
- NWEA data … using lexile scores

Lexile to Grade Level Conversion

Student #1

- Beth Greff

  Lexile score: 663-813

Student #2

- Kate Hanlon

  Lexile score: 933-1083

Lexile to Grade Level Conversion
Lexile range is 150 point spread

Student #1

- Beth Greff

    Lexile score: 663-813

Find the mid point: 738

Student #2

- Kate Hanlon

    Lexile score: 933-1083

Find the mid point: 1008

Lexile to Grade Level Conversion
Lexile range is 150 point spread

Student #1

- Beth Greff

    Lexile score: 663-813

Find the mid point: 738

Find the nearest Lexile rating: 750

Student #2

- Kate Hanlon

    Lexile score: 933-1083

Find the mid point: 1008

Find the nearest Lexile rating: 1000

Lexile to Grade Level Conversion
Lexile range is 150 point spread

Student #1

- Beth Greff

  Lexile score: 663-813

Find the mid point: 738

Find the nearest Lexile rating: 750

Find the grade level: 4.5

Student #2

- Kate Hanlon

  Lexile score: 933-1083

Find the mid point: 1008

Find the nearest Lexile rating: 1000

Find the grade level: 7.4

Using the Goal-Setting Chart

- How much time will you give students to *practice?*

- Use the grade level to find the ZPD.

- This is the book level range for your student.

- Go across the chart to find the minutes of practice and the number of points the student should earn in the time period.

Setting Goals

Student #1

- Beth Greff

  Grade level: 4.5

  ZPD: 3.2 – 5.0

  Points goal: 7.3 in 9 weeks

Student #2

- Kate Hanlon

  Grade level: 7.4

  ZPD: 4.4 – 7.5

  Points goal: 12 points in 9 weeks

Now we'll put the student goals into Accelerated Reader

https://hosted15.renlearn.com/315401/

Resources for Accelerated Reader

- www.renaissance.com

- www.arbookfind.com

  - Free resource

  - Easy to use

  - Accessible without a username or password

Ideas for implementation

- Elementary school ideas

- Middle school ideas

- High school ideas