

KINDERGARTEN

The best way you can prepare your students to be successful on the PAWS is to thoroughly and effectively teach the Language Arts Curriculum.

READING

1. Whenever you do a read aloud, be sure it is an Instructional Read-Aloud. Ask questions and help students make connections and understand the big idea.

For example:

“What story does this remind you of?”

“Did you ever have a problem like this in your life? What did you do to solve it?”

“Why did the author write this story/book? What did she want you to learn?”

Big Ideas (Themes) For example:

Corduroy Friends can bring us joy.

Horton Hears a Who! Those who are smaller than us are just as important as we are.

Enemy Pie Treating an enemy with kindness and humor can sometimes break the cycle of conflict.

The First Strawberries Conflicts can happen when we don't show respect for each other.

2. Develop academic and tier two vocabulary at every opportunity. Use the word *connections, theme, plot, problem, solve*, etc. so students become familiar with these words. Put these words on the word wall.
3. Read at least one non-fiction book per week to your students. Follow the non-fiction to fiction ratio in **Treasures**

WRITING

1. Help students develop fluency in writing by doing timed writings of letters and high-frequency words. (See how many times they can write is in 20 seconds.)
2. Model the writing of sentences with capitals and ending punctuation. Use interactive writing to write at least several sentences each day. (Perhaps summarize the discussion about connections or the big idea from your read-alouds.)
3. Teach students that sentences make sense. (Cindy has a new red sweatshirt. Tommy has. Does that make sense? Do we need to add anything?)
4. Have students use frames and begin writing simple sentences. (I see a cat. I see a cat and a rat.) As soon as they are able, have them write the entire sentence by themselves.
5. Make oral language a natural part of each day. Have students tell a friend their sentence before they try to write it. Talk, talk, talk!!!
Have a wonderful time reading and writing with your students.