

# Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)<sup>TM</sup>

## First Grade



The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)<sup>TM</sup> is a helpful and important English Language Arts assessment that is used in kindergarten through fifth grades in White Plains and in hundreds of classrooms nationwide.

It is an extremely useful tool because it provides our teachers with a wealth of information about how *each* child is developing as a reader. After administering and scoring the DRA, a teacher will know the Independent Reading Level for every child in the class. Specifically, the teacher will know each student's strengths and how to improve her/his development as a reader. This information helps the teacher to focus on specific goals for each student and for the class as a whole.

At each grade level, there is a range of typical reading levels — the levels for first grade are listed at the bottom of the page.

### Reading to Your Child

When you are looking in the school or public library for books to read to your child, it's very important for you to pick books which are more difficult than the sample books we've listed on the back side of this flyer for your child to read. Try to select beautiful books that are rich in language and story line. Choose subjects that are interesting to both you and your child.

By reading books that are at a higher level and then by talking to your child about what you read, you are actually helping teach your child good reading

habits. This should be a special and fun time for the two of you. Talk about the characters in the book, ask your child if s/he likes or dislikes them and why. Ask your child what s/he thinks will happen next in the story and if the story reminds her/him of any personal experience or of any book read previously. Most of all, enjoy your time together and be assured you are helping your child become a good reader.

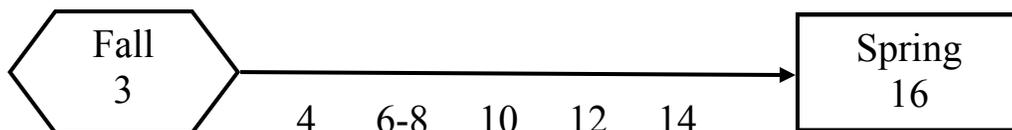
We would like to stress how very important it is for parents to model a love of reading to their children.

### Reading: The Key to Success in School

It is so very important that you make sure that your child spends at least 20-30 minutes each day in some type of reading activity. The reading activity could be your child reading to you, your child reading silently to her/himself, you reading to your child, or any combination of these activities. Making a commitment to spend this short amount of time every day on a reading activity will pay off in the long run for your child.

### Range of Typical Reading Levels in First Grade

The expected independent reading level for children in the fall of first grade is 3. Children are expected to progress through the levels that are noted on the range below so that at the end of the school year, they are reading at level 16. It is important to note that some children will have scores that are above or below the grade-level expectation.



# Helping Your Child Grow as a Reader

## About the Reading Levels

Below are short descriptions or characteristics of books at the levels that are listed on the previous page. If you look at the lists below starting at the top and reading down to the bottom, you will notice that the reading material gets increasingly more difficult as the school year unfolds. You'll also see that the higher levels will provide more challenging text for your child to read.



## Choosing a Book for Your Child to Read

We have given you some suggestions of books for your child to read. Just find your child's Independent Reading Level (on the report card) and look below for books at that level. The books are all available at the White Plains Public Library. When you go there, ask the librarian to help you find these and other similar books. We encourage you to visit your school's library too to find great books for your child. Look in your child's book bag for books from your child's classroom library. It's good practice for your child to read out loud to you and also to read silently to her/himself.

### If your child receives a DRA score of 3 or 4 ...

The books have a simple story line with familiar topics with patterns and repetition. Words and pictures are related and most have 2-6 lines of text on each page.

### If your child receives a DRA score of 6-8...

The stories are more complex and the sentences a little longer. Most have 3-8 lines of text on each page and the vocabulary is more challenging. Some concepts less familiar to children.

### If your child receives a DRA score of 10...

There are more events and action in the stories and the text has a distinct beginning, middle, and end. There is greater use of dialogue.

### If your child receives a DRA score of 12 or 14...

The books have more challenging ideas and vocabulary and most have 4-8 lines of text on each page. There are longer sentences, the vocabulary is expanded, and the stories have more events.

### If your child receives a DRA score of 16...

The stories are more complex with more than one point of view. The vocabulary begins to be challenging and each page has more sentences.

### Suggested Books

#### Level 3:

*Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by B. Martin

#### Level 4:

*Ten Black Dots* by D. Crews

Donald Crews books

*Bears in the Night* by S. and J. Berenstain

### Suggested Books

*It Looked Like Spilt Milk* by C. Shaw

*Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* by

E. Christelow

*The Foot Book* by Dr. Seuss

*Go, Dog, Go* by P. D. Eastman

*Inside, Outside, Upside Down* by S. & J. Berenstain

*Where's Spot?* by E. Hill

### Suggested Books

*Dear Zoo* by R. Campbell

*Who Will Be My Friends?* by S. Hoff

*Bread, Bread, Bread* by A. Morris

*Cookie's Week* by C. Ward

*Just Like Daddy* by F. Asch

*Rosie's Walk* by P. Hutchins

### Suggested Books

#### Level 12:

*The Carrot Seed* by R. Krauss

*Sheep in a Jeep* by N. Shaw

*Each Peach, Pear, Plum* by J. Ahlberg

*Harry Gets Ready for School* by H. Ziefert

*More Spaghetti I Say* by R. Gelman

*Spot's First Walk* by E. Hill

*Titch* by P. Hutchins

#### Level 14:

*Goodnight Moon* by M. W. Brown

*Danny and the Dinosaur Go to Camp* by S. Hoff

*Sammy the Seal* by S. Hoff

Mercer Mayer books

### Suggested Books

*Happy Birthday, Sam* by P. Hutchins

*Tidy Titch* by P. Hutchins

*Leo the Late Bloomer* by R. Kraus

*The Very Busy Spider* by E. Carle

*Are You My Mother?* by P. D. Eastman

*Hattie and the Fox* by Mem Fox

*Henny Penny* by P. Galdone

*Noisy Nora* by R. Wells

*Spot's Birthday Party* by E. Hill