

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

## Kindergarten



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 kindergarten 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.

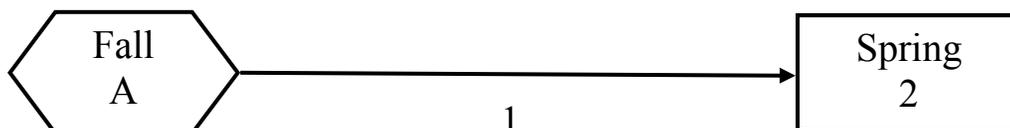
We would like to stress how very important it is for parents to model a love of reading to their children.

### 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 Kindergarten

The expected independent reading level for children in the fall of kindergarten is A. 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 2. 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 is a short description or characteristic of books at the levels that are listed on the previous page. As the school year unfolds, you will notice that the books 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.

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### If your child receives a DRA score of A, 1 or 2 ...

Words are very easy in these books and stories focus on a single idea. Pictures and words match and the story relates to a child's personal experiences. Most have 1-4 words of text on each page and pictures appear on all pages. Several words are repeated often.

### Suggested Books

Here are a few samples of books that parents can find at the White Plains Public Library. More books at these levels can be found in your child's classroom or school library. Please feel free to ask your child's teacher for books for your child to read.

#### Level A & 1:

*I hunter* by P. Hutchins

#### Level 2:

*Have You Seen My Cat?* by E. Carle

*Have You Seen My Duckling?* by N. Tafuri