

The Daily 5 ~ A Structured Approach to Language Arts

The Daily Five is a way of structuring the reading block so every student is independently engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. These research based tasks are ones that will have the biggest impact on student reading and writing achievement, as well as help foster children who love to read and write. Students receive explicit whole group instruction and then are given independent practice time to read and write independently while we provide focused, intense instruction to individuals and small groups of students.

When it is up and running smoothly, students will be engaged in the Daily Five, which are comprised of:

- Read to Self
- Work on Writing
- Read to Someone
- Listen to Reading
- Word Work

There are very specific behavior expectations that go with each Daily 5 component. When we begin Daily 5, we will spend our first weeks working intensely on building our reading and writing stamina, learning the behaviors of the Daily 5 and fostering our classroom community. We will also spend time learning about your child's strengths and greatest needs as a reader in order to best plan for each student's instruction.

One thing you'll notice will be the absence of worksheets your child brings home. While worksheets keep students busy, they don't really result in the high level of learning we want for your child. Instead, your child will be taught to select "Good Fit Books" or books they can read, understand and are interested in, which they will read during Daily 5. They will be spending most of their time actually reading, which research supports as the number one way to improve reading. We have seen the motivation and enjoyment of reading skyrocket when this gift of choosing their own books is accompanied by extended practice and specific reading instruction for each individual child.

We are so excited about giving your child the opportunity to be involved in a structure that will have a positive effect on their education. We have had great success with the Daily 5 structure and love how it boosts interest, builds self-esteem and fosters each student's needs in an authentic and powerful manner. We can't wait to guide and watch your children blossom into the natural readers they already are!

