Abstract

Teaching children to read and to comprehend is a daunting task. Reading aloud to children teaches text structure, vocabulary, and confidence. A traditional read aloud asks many questions and requires that students respond to questions asked. An interactive read aloud gets students involved in the story by asking them to talk with a partner about different questions or calling out thoughts as the story is read. This type of read aloud focuses on one skill at a time. By presenting one skill at a time, students gain confidence in applying the skill to different texts. As students begin to understand each skill, a new one is added. Skills are built upon one at a time for mastery.

Exploring interactive real alouds in the classroom showed that students understood skills better and in less time when worked on one at a time. Building up skill knowledge allowed students to practice finding and applying each skill in different texts. By the end of the study, students were able to identify many different skills at once in one reading passage. Students gained confidence and were not afraid to call out thoughts during a real aloud.