Raising reading standards through effective guided reading

Top tips for managing the rest of the class during guided reading

Expert advice from Lindsay Pickton

One of the most common issues schools have with managing guided reading is how to ensure that all groups of children are making progress in their learning.

Lindsay Pickton shares his top tips for managing your non-guided reading groups.

**Tip 1:** Use the *Project X Origins* photocopiable sheets

I’m not normally an advocate of using lots of photocopiable sheets, but the *Project X Origins* range is thought-provoking. They encourage children to go back to the book and really think hard about what they have read, thus developing their comprehension skills.

**Tip 2:** Set research projects

Set a small group a research project, perhaps for a short presentation on a topic that you are covering in a different part of the day. The *Project X Origins* teaching notes have suggestions for suitable tasks that you could set.

**Tip 3:** Read ahead for the next session

Asking children to pre-read a section or a chapter before they come to the next guided reading session frees up that time to focus on discussing the text. Set them a task and ask them to report back to the group when you next meet. Giving children this sense of purpose will help keep them on task as they read. But don’t make it too specific. Think of the adult book-group experience.

**Tip 4:** Edit and redraft written work

Twenty minutes of independent time is ideal for children to edit their own work, or even redraft it, in response to marking. Be careful of handwriting practice, though, as some children need close monitoring to ensure they aren’t over-learning bad habits.

**Tip 5:** Play vocabulary and spelling games

If you have a teaching assistant or another adult who is able to help, you could play small-group games for quick-fire spelling and vocabulary practice. It’s best to only have one of these groups going on at any one time, otherwise noise levels can become a problem!

**Tip 6:** Learning poetry

Learning poetry by heart is a great way of improving children’s vocabulary and sense of a sentence. It also requires no marking, is enjoyable and leaves children owning a little piece of art.

Want to find out more? For more advice or to book a FREE taster event with Lindsay Pickton visit [www.oxfordprimary.co.uk/guidedreading](http://www.oxfordprimary.co.uk/guidedreading)

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