Selecting Appropriate Reading Material

Focus on accuracy!

Independent Reading Level: ___

Instructional Reading Level: ___

Frustration Reading Level: ___

To determine if a book is at a child's reading level:

• First, check the back of the book to see if a grade level is listed. This will be a pretty good indication of the difficulty level of the book. (You'll want to select books that match your child's instructional level - not necessarily your child's current grade level.)

• If a grade level is not listed or if you want to double check that the book is at the right level, mark off a passage of 100 words. (This can be on any page of the book.) Ask your child to read the marked passage aloud to you. Mark each error the student makes as he/she reads. Total the number of errors made and subtract from 100. This is the accuracy rate of your child for the book.

• Select a book that is at least at a child's instructional level (see table above).

• For children who are reading at the third grade level or above, it is beneficial to include silent reading on a regular basis. I recommend that parents begin each evening by having the child read 2-3 pages aloud. Then, the parent can assign a few pages for the child to read silently. The parent should read the pages ahead of time so they will be familiar with the content and be able to ask a couple of oral comprehension questions to check for understanding when the child has finished reading.

• Providing a reading log is a good way to track the reading that is completed at home. Parents can note the date, title of the book, pages read, and sign off after each reading session. Offer an incentive for pages read ☺.