

A Family's Guide to Star Reading and Accelerated Reader

What is Star Reading?

Star Reading is an online assessment used to determine a child's English reading level. It is a computer based reading assessment system that uses computer adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to each child's responses. If the response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they cannot answer a question, or answer incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20-30 minutes. This test is carried out in school.

What is Accelerated Reader (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps staff manage and monitor a child's independent reading practice. Children pick a book that falls within their ZPD level from the school library. When they have finished reading, they take a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that the child has understood what has been read. If they are reading at the recommended level for them they are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

What is a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development)?

A ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Each child will receive a ZPD, or reading range, after taking a Star Reading test. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPD.

How can I help my child?

As with anything, reading and understanding the English language improves with practice. Each child is expected to read at home for fifteen minutes at least five times a week and record this in their Reading Log. Encourage your child to read at home, discuss the books and ask questions about what they have read. Also, ensure your child brings their book and Reading Log to school each day.