

ACCELERATED READER- Renaissance Learning

What Is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. It is started when children reach a higher level of independent reading which usually happens in P.3 or P. 4. It can, of course, start earlier or later depending on progress. Your child will pick a book in the school library according to their reading ability and when finished, will complete a short online quiz on this book. The quiz will help to assess their comprehension or understanding of the book. This information then helps the teacher assess their reading progress and decide how to help them progress further. The reading books selected by the children are within a selected group, therefore, you can be confident that the books that they read are at an appropriate level for them.

How much will my child read during the day?

According to Renaissance Learning's research children who read at least 20 minutes per day see the greatest reading gains. In school we will set aside between 20 and 30 minutes of silent reading every day for those pupils involved in the programme.

Should my child read AR books at home?

Yes. Some of the books that your child reads will not be completed during the reading time in school. Encouraging them to read while at home will help them improve further.

How did the school decide on my child's reading level?

All children involved also complete an AR STAR Reading Assessment at the beginning of the programme and at various stages throughout. Star Reading is a computerised reading assessment tool that uses computer-adaptive technology. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If your child's response to a question is correct, harder questions will be asked. If your child misses a question, the next question will be easier. This adaptation to children's responses helps determine their appropriate reading level.

What is a ZPD?

ZPD stands for Zone of Proximal Development. A ZPD is simply the range of books that a pupil will read within. They are carefully selected to appropriately challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation with their reading. The ZPD is identified after the children sit the STAR Reading Assessment. This range will change according to a child's reading progress.

My child's book has a coloured sticker on the spine and a white sticker on the inside cover. What do they mean?

The coloured sticker indicates the Book Range that the child is reading within. The inside sticker provides a variety of information about the book. The information most useful to parents is the ATOS Book Level and the points available to the reader when he/ she finishes the book.

What is an ATOS Book Level?

An ATOS book level represents the difficulty of the text. There are 6 levels in total and they range from 0.0-1.9 through to 6.0+.

How can my child reach his or her target?

Every time a child reads a book and successfully completes an online quiz, they will receive the allocated points for the book. The points can be found on the sticker on the inside of the book. AR points are based on the difficulty and the length of the book. AR Targets are set each half term, the children are aware of the number of points they must gain, and this is formulated using the following information; ZPD, 25 mins daily reading time and achieving 85% average accuracy in quizzes taken. Depending on the number of questions answered correctly, children will earn points and make their way to their target. Children are rewarded for reaching their targets- this can take many forms. We have encouraged our children to come up with their own way of being rewarded for their achievements. Some children decided to have more time using ICT, others preferred a homework pass or having a non-uniform day. There will also be occasions when we have a prize – names of those who achieved their targets will be placed in a hat and a draw will take place.

Will my child still read books in their class reading group?

Your child will continue with their normal reading in class within their reading group. AR books from the school library are additional reading material.

My child has told me that they complete Accelerated Reader quizzes in class. Can they do them at home?

The quizzes are completed in school. Quizzing does not happen at home.

Can I supply Accelerated Reader books for my child?

If you wish you can purchase AR Reading books for your child or find ones at the local library. We will continue to increase our school stock of AR books over the next few years, but we are aware there may a range of AR books at the local library that children may like to read. Quizzes on these books can be completed in school and the books brought back home. If you wish to check if a book you are going to buy/borrow is an AR Book with a quiz, you can visit Accelerated Reader Bookfinder. at www.arbookfind.co.uk

