



Self-Selected Reading in our Classrooms

The two main guiding rules are:

- *It isn't self-selected if you don't choose it yourself*
- *You can't get good at it if it is too difficult*

Overall guidelines

- Do you have 20 or more books per student in your classroom?
- Do you have a mix of fiction and non-fiction?
- Do students have a chance to interact with books as independently as possible?
- Do you have a mixture of comfortable spaces for students to read in?
- Do students have a chance to read a book with an adult for pleasure and enjoyment?
- Are you doing teacher read alouds as well as having DEAR (drop everything and read) time?
- Do you have a "reader's chair" time for students to share about a book they have read each week?
- Do you have a spot in the writing block for students to do book reviews?
- Have you picked suitable early books for older readers?
<https://www.pinterest.com/janefarrall/picture-books-for-older-readers/>
- Are you using different technologies e.g. printed books, eBooks?

For emergent students

- Are you doing shared reading in this block? Remember to use AAC and CAR (Comment, ask, respond).
- How are you giving them independent access to books?
- Do you have a mixture of the following in your classroom?
 - alphabet books
 - repeated line books
 - photo based books
 - picture books
 - rhyming books
 - books in their areas of interest (check out www.tarheelreader.org)



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- custom books

For conventional students

- How are you ensuring they choose from books at or below their reading levels? (Look at resources like Level It www.levelitbooks.com to make sure books are at the right level)
- Do you have a mixture of the following for them to choose from?
 - readers
 - photo based books
 - picture books
 - rhyming books
 - books in their areas of interest (look at published books and www.tarheelreader.org)
 - chapter books (if appropriate)
 - high interest favourites
- If a student is reading at a grade 1 level or above, are you aiming for silent reading?
- If a student has complex communication needs how are you teaching inner voice for silent reading?

And remember – the goal is always silent reading WITH COMPREHENSION

For more information

Check out the blog posts:

[Self-selected Reading: Books for Every Reader](#)

[Self-selected Reading for Early Readers of All Ages](#)

[iPad Apps for Guided Reading](#)

[Picture books for Older Readers](#)

[Symbol Supported Text: Does It Really Help?](#)

[Favourites and Collections: Creating bookshelves in Tar Heel Reader](#)

[Using Tar Heel Reader in app mode on your iPad](#)

[Putting Tar Heel Reader Books into iBooks – with speech!](#)