



What is a “Book Box?”

Rozanne Lanczak Williams

A Book Box contains reading material that the beginning reader can read independently. Every child should have two Book Boxes, one at school and one at home. The school Book Box usually sits on the student’s desk or in a special corner of the classroom. It contains books introduced during small group reading time or shared reading time, or books the child brought from home or chose in the school or classroom library. The teacher will add books that she wants the child to read or reread and may change the books frequently to individualize reading instruction. Rereading builds fluency! A school Book Box gives early readers access to plenty of the “right” books (not too hard, not too easy) for free time or silent reading time.

Many k-1 teachers I know request that students have Book Boxes at home. Some make and decorate Book Boxes with parents at Back to School night or with students on the first day of school. This is a great way to stress the importance of reading at home. When children take home books they made in school, they are instructed to put them in their home Book Box and read them often. By the end of the school year, children have a nice collection of books they can practice rereading during summer vacation!