

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

Professional Development Offerings

This year, Concept Schools has developed a new way for teachers to request support and professional development. The following sessions are now listed on the "Professional Management" tab on Concept SIS.

- Class Observation & Feedback (also for model lessons or co-teaching)
- Curriculum in Details (meeting about curriculum, lesson planning, etc.)
- Training on STAR Early Literacy
- Basics to Reading Instruction
- Guided Math
- High Leverage Strategies and Tools for Classroom Management
- Reading and Math Centers 101
- The Emergent Writer
- Understanding the Necessary Components of the Balanced Literacy Block
- RTI for the Classroom Teacher (Reading and Math)

You are welcome to submit a request for any of these and these requests will be forwarded to Mr. Uslu for consideration. Please feel free to contact me anytime about any requests or follow up through an email to let me know about your needs!

Have you visited...?

Our department has its very own webpage on the Concepts Schools website.  
<http://www.conceptschools.org/>

Be sure to check out all it has to offer! Content in each blog box will change periodically.

Want to feature your students on the main slider? Simply email a picture to me and we may use it sometime during the school year!

Contact Information:

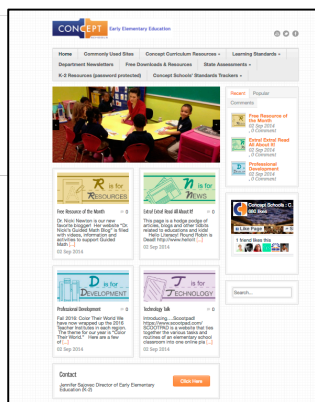
**Jennifer Sajovec**

Director of Primary Education (K-2)

[sajovec@conceptschools.org](mailto:sajovec@conceptschools.org)

847-824-3380 Ext. 246

<http://elementary.conceptschools.org/>



## FREE?!?!?

## Gotta Catch 'Em All!

Some of your students (and maybe you, maybe me) spent some time walking around this summer playing Pok mon Go! Why not tap into your students' interest by finding ways to include Pok mon Go in the classroom.

Pok mon Go Brag Tags

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Pokemon-Go-Brag-Tags-FREEBIE-2647216>

Brag Tags are the newest way to promote positive behavior in your classroom. It's simple! Students are rewarded for their good actions with a tag which they can collect. The link connects to a free, editable version but there are also several very cute versions for purchase on TPT.

Pok mon Go Evolution Token Board

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Pokemon-Go-Evolution-Token-Board-2-2704350>

Do you have students who may need something additional to help motivate them to reach a goal (behavioral or academic)? Students can earn tokens for working toward their goal and once achieve, they get to "evolve" their Pok mon.

Pok mon Go! Phonics

<http://www.pokemon.com/us/pokdex/>

Want to find a way to connect phonics lessons to students' current interests? Simply use your computer's screen capture tool and print out the Pok mon characters whose names connect to your phonics lesson. "Charizard" can teach them the /ch/ sound or the /ar/ sound. Create your own Pok dex and students can practice sounding out words.

<http://www.memozor.com/memory-game-online-free/memory-to-print/cards-pokemon>

You can use the Pok mon memory game and have students "sound out" the names of the Pok mon in order to collect the match.

Pok mon Reading Bookmarks

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Pokemon-Reading-Bookmarks-2730222>

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Pokemon-bookmarks-have-many-other-products-2649348>

Practice Math with Pok mon

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/FreeDownload/Pokemon-Go-Addition-Facts-Activity-2708799>

Students can practice their addition facts by matching them with the correct Pok mon character.

Pok mon Writing Activity

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Pokemon-Fun-descriptive-writing-and-creativity-art-task-No-prep-2754281>

Use this free download to have students create their own Pok mon cards. Spin the idea even further into having students write their own stories about their Pok mon characters!

# TOP tips for Guided Reading Table

By Jennifer Sajovec

## ORGANIZE YOUR TOOLS

The crucial minutes of your guided reading session are precious. Don't waste any time having students find materials, go get pencils, etc.! Prepare bins or baskets of materials ahead of time. Include things like pencils, highlighters, pointing sticks, extra erasers, crayons/markers, and special "well done" stickers.



Take this a step further and make sure you have your materials for each group ready, including a mini-whiteboard for lesson demonstrations and follow up comprehension sheets.

## SEND THEM AWAY FOR MORE PRACTICE

Students need repeated practice on the same text to build fluency and confidence while reading. Make sure you are building in chances for your students to practice their guided reading texts again and again. Create book baskets or book bags (ziplocs work great!) so students can read the guided books later during independent reading time. You may also consider sending these books home for additional practice.

## SO HOW DOES IT LOOK AGAIN?

The best way to learn some strategies for conducting successful guided reading lessons is to watch other teachers. We all love to see our colleagues in action but the web is alive with people who have posted videos of themselves doing a Guided Reading lesson. Check out a few of my favorites!

- Early Elementary (K-1): <http://houstonisdpsd.org/video-exemplar/video-landing-page/370-guided-reading-emergent-lesson-levels-a-c?view=item>
- Older Grades (2-5): <http://houstonisdpsd.org/video-exemplar/video-landing-page/375-guided-reading-lesson-transitional-stage?view=item>
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AHxqggc-yI>
- Ms. Kardo's 1<sup>st</sup> grade: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4tm4NKpHzs>
- Several Levels (reading recovery): <http://readingrecovery.clemson.edu/index.php/reading/guided-reading>

## PLEASE DON'T INTERRUPT...

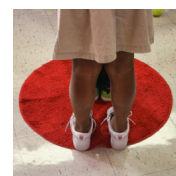
It's crucial that students have your complete attention during the session but it's really challenging getting the other

students to not interrupt the session. There are a couple of strategies to help:

**Have a Signal:** Put something out that informs the teacher students that you will be busy with a guided reading group. Some people use a tap light and others put on a special hat. It doesn't matter what the signal is just as long as students understand its meaning.

**Take a Number:** There will be times when students will need your attention but maybe not right away. Teach students to use some type of signal to quietly get your attention. Maybe they put a post-it that says "help" on their work space or maybe you really do have them take a number. When there is a lull in the Guided Reading group, you can quickly address their need.

**Stop and Wait:** Designate a spot (near but not close to the guided reading table.) They can sit on the "stop and wait" spot and read a book until you are available to help them.



**Class Captain:** Choose one or two very responsible students to be the class captain. When a student needs assistance, he/she should first visit the class captain.

**Have a back-Up:** There are going to be times when your guided reading session HAS to be interrupted. Always have something for the students at the table to do if this occurs. Teach them a few things like highlighting and writing sight words from the book or draw/write about their favorite part so far.

## THERE'S A BLOG FOR THAT!

Here are a couple of blogs to check out on Guided Reading: Check out information from these teacher bloggers: on Guided Reading.

### Materials Organization

- <http://www.onesharpbunch.com/2016/02/guided-reading-organization.html>
- <http://mrspauleyskindergarten.blogspot.com/2014/07/guided-reading-organization-bright-idea.html>

### What to do with the other students:

- <http://learningattheprimarypond.com/blog/how-can-i-teach-guided-reading-if-the-other-students-wont-work-quietly-and-independently/>

### Miscellaneous

- <http://www.firstgradegarden.com/2015/05/how-to-make-most-of-your-guided-reading.html>
- <http://whattheteacherwants.blogspot.com/2012/01/guided-reading-galore.html>

Be sure to check out the Guided Reading packet I put together last year for more information and resources!

<http://elementary.conceptschools.org/k-2-resources-password-protected/>

