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? [link]
• 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?
  o alphabet books
  o repeated line books
  o photo based books
  o picture books
  o rhyming books
  o books in their areas of interest (check out [link])

Jane Farrall, 2015
For conventional students

- How are you ensuring they choose from books at or below their reading levels? (Look at resources like Level It [www.leveitbooks.com](http://www.leveitbooks.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](http://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!](#)