Morning Message Magic
Literacy Skills / Concept of Word

Materials

1. A morning message written on chart paper
2. Pen

Virginia SOLs

K.5, 1.5

Procedure

1. Write a morning message. Use the same words, sentences, and phrases over and over to increase familiarity and build confidence.

2. Leave blank spaces in place of words or letters. Draw boxes in the spaces to show the number and sizes of the missing letters.

3. Do three re-readings; the first is silent. The second is aloud, but the children put a finger over their lips when you point to a word with a box or boxes. This gets them using the “cloze technique” to help determine the missing words and to use their knowledge of phonics to figure out missing letters. Do a third reading and choose students to apply the missing letters or words. This helps to review letter sounds and can be used to teach basic sight words or CVC words.

4. Sometimes you can let children circle words that they know in the message. After the oral reading, select children to come up to the letter and point to a word they can read. Then they may circle the word using a pen. This helps children develop sight vocabulary. They will often figure out words using their phonemic skills or by using context clues by reading the surrounding words. Praise them for techniques they use to figure out words.

Source: Lindsey, D. Postman Poquoson Primary School. Poquoson, VA.