

Smart Start in Language Arts Testimonial

This is the eighth year that I have been using the Smart Start in Language Arts program and I continue to be thrilled with the results. I have found the resource comprehensive in providing effective reading and writing strategies that are sequential and repetitive for the students. Parents love the flashcard newsletters of sight words which are sent home for the first six weeks, and the students like the routine of the work and the variety of reading and writing exercises.

One of JoAnne's ideas that my students practice daily is what I call Phonics Spelling. This guided method of sounding out words as students spell them reinforces the sounds, the mechanics of spelling, and the spelling rules. Later on in the year, students apply the spelling rules in order to correct misspelled words. This guided approach is extremely effective in developing successful spellers.

Another tool that JoAnne has implemented in this resource is the Sight Word Reader. Students work on putting together a sight word reader that coincides with the sight words they are learning in class. This provides daily reinforcement of vocabulary that is at their reading level.

Writing is often the hardest subject to learn *and* teach in grade one. JoAnne has devised a sequential method that starts in September with writing one sentence daily to writing entire stories by the end of the year. Students learn to enjoy story writing and use this skill in all other subjects.

This resource is packed with valuable strategies that have great results with grade one students. The pace is quick and structured, and I am so pleased with the success students experience in becoming independent readers. Smart Start in Language Arts continues to be the most important resource I use in teaching Language Arts to grade ones. Parents are equally pleased with the strong foundation in reading and writing that it provides. Thank you, JoAnne!

Sincerely,
Shanon Butler
Grade one teacher
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