

Accelerated Reader Guide for Parents

We have been running Accelerated Reader in our school for many years to help promote a love for reading and to further enhance the children's progress with reading. AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, they take a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read. AR gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and ongoing reading practice.

The level is called the ZPD (zone of proximal development), it is an individual range in which your child will make the most rapid progress. Children working within their zone should find sufficient challenge, without getting frustrated, which is often a reason why children can become reluctant to read.

Colour Key

ZPD	
0 - 1.9	
2 - 2.9	
3 - 3.9	
4 - 4.9	
5 - 5.9	
6 - 6.9	
7+	

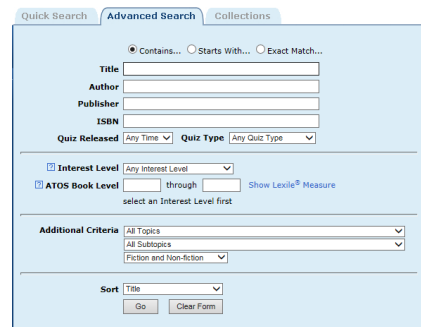
There is a section in the library devoted entirely to books that are included in the AR system. They are all coloured coded and labelled to match the zones. The key to the left shows how our school will organise the zones.

When children are assessed, they will be given their zone, which isn't just a number, it is a range. For example, a child might have a ZPD of between 1.2 (green) and 2.7 (orange). They will be given a colour within that range to work within.

We recognise that not all books are appropriate for all ages, so books will also be arranged by interest level. The shelves will be clearly labelled for interest level and colour/ZPD level, but to make it easier for younger children and the librarians, the stickers will look different too.

Finding books for your child to read at home

Once children have completed the assessment and have their ZPD, it's time to choose a book. Children can search for books in the AR sections in the library, or alternatively you can help them search for books at www.arbookfind.co.uk. AR Book finder allows you to either search for books they have at home, to see if they can take quizzes on them, or search the entire range of books for their zone, that you might like to purchase or borrow.



The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' tab of the AR Book Finder. It includes fields for Title, Author, Publisher, and ISBN. There are dropdown menus for 'Quiz Released' (Any Time) and 'Quiz Type' (Any Quiz Type). Below these are checkboxes for 'Interest Level' (set to 'Any Interest Level') and 'ATOS Book Level' (set to 'select an Interest Level first'). There are also dropdowns for 'Additional Criteria' (All Topics, All Subtopics, Fiction and Non-fiction) and a 'Sort' dropdown (set to 'Title'). At the bottom are 'Go' and 'Clear Form' buttons.

Quizzes

When a child has completed their book, they need to let their teacher know, so that they can log on to a school computer and complete the quiz; the sooner they can do this, the better.

Children can only complete a quiz once and can only review questions if they get the required number correct to pass (**60%**). We aim for our children to achieve at least 85%.

Rewards

When children read a book and then successfully take a quiz, they are given instant feedback on how well they've done. As well as this, children can accumulate points towards certificates and other school rewards. It also keeps track of how many words children have read, which seems to really spur children on. We'd encourage them to work towards being in the Millionaires' Club by the time they leave school. It is important to note that children do not compete against each other, but instead they aim towards individual targets set by their teacher.



Reading Records

Reading records will now include **space for AR information**. There will be space at the front and back of the reading record for the children to record all of the books they have read, the level, total number of pages and percentages scored on the quizzes. Inside of the record is where the children, parents or teachers record the book title and level they are currently reading, the date, total pages read in one sitting and any relevant comments. There is also a great deal of hints, tips, guidance and suggested books, if you spend a little time flicking through the reading record.

How parents can help?

It sounds simple and many people dismiss it, but the best way that you can help your child progress is to read to them, encourage them to read to you and to make sure they spend a little time each day reading independently. You can also help by using Book Finder online to select appropriate books within their zone. When Christmas or birthdays come round and you want to buy them a book, why not find a book that is ideal for their age/reading ability? It is even possible to search by AR level on the eplatform library!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Simpson

Deputy Head Teacher