

# Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA-2)- What Parents Need to Know



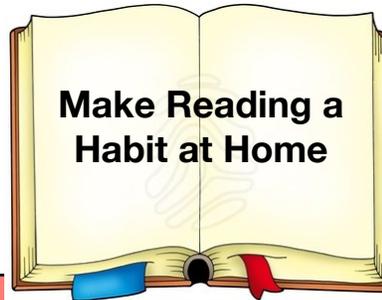
*“Good readers enjoy reading, have favorite books authors, and genres. They talk about books and recommend their favorites as well as construct meaning as they read and share their understanding of what they read.”*

(Developmental Reading Assessment Teacher Guide, 2006)

the DRA-2 enables teachers to systematically observe, record and evaluate changes in student reading performance. DRA-2 provides teachers with information that helps them determine each student’s independent reading level and identify what the student needs to learn next to grow as a reader. Lastly, the assessment informs teachers how the student can respond to reading through written expression.

Assessments are conducted during one-on-one reading conferences as children read specially selected assessment texts and communicate their understanding of what they read.

At Strafford, students in grades first through eighth are given the assessment at least two times a year, where appropriate, with an additional progress monitoring assessment. These assessments are given in the fall and spring. Please contact your child’s teacher for specific dates.



## Tips for Parents

- Read and reread books aloud to your child even through middle school.
- Set aside time nightly for your child to read independently. In younger years, listen to your child read.
- Talk about the books you read together and books he/she reads independently.
- Rereading books helps to increase reading fluency.
- Encourage your child to use expression as he/she reads.
- Reading a variety of materials helps to build vocabulary.
- Talk to your child about the reading strategies they learn from their reading lessons at school. Encourage them to use those when reading.
- Ask your child to write about what they read. This helps to make connections, draw inferences, and to increase comprehension.

## Questions and Answers

### What are the benefits of the DRA-2?

Reading assessments support the learning standards. The results provide teachers with accurate information on a student’s current independent reading level, identifies need for growth and find areas where growth has occurred. Along with other information about your child’s reading ability, teachers can make instructional decisions that are appropriate to help your child grow as a reader.

### Is DRA-2 the only assessment my child is given?

DRA-2 is only one assessment of many your child takes throughout the year. Other assessments give the teacher feedback on what comprehension strategies your child is successfully using or needs more help with to better understand what is read.

### How can I help my successful reader?

If your child is reading above grade level, encourage him/her to expand across new genres to increase vocabulary and possibly increase the length of books he/he selects.

**For more information or to find out your child’s independent reading level, please contact his/her teacher.**