

Fast Start for Early Readers

Sue Crosby

Reading Interventionist

K. R. Hanchey Elementary School

DeRidder, LA

Fast Start has been an amazing journey for our students, parents, and teachers. Our school has been using Fast Start for 12 years with, at various times, our pre-K, kindergarten and first grade students. Our students, parents, and teachers love Fast Start! It is so simple to do and FUN! It's based on key elements of foundational reading instruction – modeling fluent reading, assisted reading, repeated reading, performance with expression, and word study. Our teachers send home a poem and an accompanying activity page each week. It's so easy:

- 1 Read the poem to your child several times.
- 2 Read the poem with your child several times.
- 3 Listen to your child read to you...no pressure HAVE FUN! GIVE LOTS OF PRAISE.
- 4 Do an activity focused on words from the rhyme! Keep it short and fun 10-15 minutes!

We ask that the parents read the same poem 2 days a week. They choose what days. The parents record how much time they spent on Fast Start. The next week we send home a different poem and activity page. The students and parents favorite part is reading the poems. Fast Start improves students' sight word recognition, fluency, and comprehension. That is why we have been using it for over a decade. Parents love it and feel that they can contribute to substantively to their children's reading development. Kids love working with their parents. And teachers love the additional growth they see in their students. This program is awesome!

