

IX

SOME AIDS IN TEACHING FIRST
GRADE READING

Since reading is the basis of all education, we focus our attention and energy upon it in the First Grade. A program of our work may sound as if we had many subjects, and we have, but they are so interwoven that we might call many subjects reading.

The following are some concrete examples of activities as aids in teaching reading. Upon our activity table from which the children select their own occupations for the study period, we have boxes of word-card puzzles, large calendars cut into figures to build, Mother Goose pictures and rhymes to match, picture puzzles, blocks, colored beads, weaving, construction material, games, children's books, etc. The boxes are labeled with names.

Our room has a dado of plain paper, a neutral shade; on this are hung, level with the child's eye, children's pictures, home-made cuttings illustrating Mother Goose rhymes, seasonal interests, animals, etc. These are labeled with names.

Mother Goose rhymes, printed of large, one-inch-size letters, are made on large pieces of card-board and illustrated with cuttings and hung low enough for the child to read. With similar words on cards, he builds a picture of this rhyme and incidentally learns the words.

The color of each bead is written on the blackboard, first in chalk matching the color

of the bead. The children at first string the beads by the color of the word; later, names of the colors are written in white chalk, then printed. It is interesting to see how many unconsciously and incidentally learn the names of the colors and the words.

Cases, or wall-pockets, are made of heavy goods, with divisions large enough to hold the children's crayolas, pencils, etc. Each pocket is labeled with a child's name. The children, in getting out and putting away their materials, learn to recognize their names.

Through the graphophone records many children learn the names of their favorite pieces and the composers, and select the records.

Our plan is always to have a purpose for reading. This requires from the teacher, thought, planning, and application of child psychology. The modern school-room furnishes some contrast to the old disciplinary education pictured in the History of Education, where the school master is represented with a bundle of switches and about the room are miniature men and women having different modes of torture inflicted upon them.

The following is a lesson plan which has proven successful in using the *Aldine Method of Reading*.

In part II, 6, the children often give the story and the teacher prints it on the black board, then the children read.

Different forms of word drill are used to vary the interest.

LESSON PLAN

Topic. Reading

Date.....

Name.....

Teacher's Aim.

- a. To have the children recognize the script and print words in rhyme.
- b. To read with expression and understanding the story from black-board and book.

Child's Aim.

- a. To match the word cards with the words in rhyme.
- b. To play the game of word-drill.
- c. To read the story on the black board. Read the book.

SUBJECT MATTER	PROCEDURE
I	I
1 Story in Aldine Manual.	1 Introduction.
II	Tell the Story.
1 Sing little Bluebird, Tell of the spring, Sing little Bluebird, The glad news bring. } In script	II
2 Flash cards in script, Tell, spring, of, glad, news, bring.	1 a Children recite rhyme through ques- tions.
3 When will spring come? Tell me, what will bring the glad news of spring.	b Teacher writes rhyme on blackboard.
Will the boys bring the glad news?	c Children read.
Will the girls tell of spring?	2 Quick word drill.
Bluebird will tell the boys of spring.	3 Read script story.
Bluebird will tell the boys and girls the glad news.	
I want Bluebird to come early in the spring	
The father Bluebird will come before the mother Bluebird.	
He will tell when spring has come.	4 Children read printed rhyme.
4 Sing little Bluebird, Tell of the spring, Sing little Bluebird, The glad news bring. } In print	
5 Flash cards in print. Tell, of, spring, tell, news, bring.	5 Drill game. "I am thinking of a word."
6 Printed story. The Bluebird has come. He is blue with a yellow breast. He comes to tell me, it is spring. He tells the boys and girls, spring has come.	6 Read story from blackboard.
Bluebird brings the glad news with a song.	
I am glad spring has come. The boys and girls are glad that Blue- bird brings the news of spring.	
The mother Bluebird builds the nest. Then she lays green eggs.	
By and by there will be baby Bluebirds. Pretty Bluebirds, you bring joy.	
7 of the spring; to go; to come the glad news	7 Quick phrase drill.
for joy, of joy	
over and over	
The little girls; the little boy	
Little Bluebird	
III	III
BOOK	SUMMARY
1 Aldine Primer, page 40.	1 Read.

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