

Organizing the Elephant and Piggie Reading-at-Home Book Club



At the beginning of the year, it is the custom for young readers to be placed in leveled books that are **often limited in vocabulary—and imagination. My goal is always to get them into *real* books** of their choosing as soon as possible. We have demonstrated the power of these delightful books. Many children—although these books are above their “reading level”—will prove that a love of books and desire to read are more important than the “just-right reading level” in motivating children to **enjoy reading!**

Rereading for fluency and delight at home and at

school builds confident and motivated readers: that is the goal of our Elephant and Piggie Book Club.

The children eagerly want to hear—and read—each book again and again. **Boys especially love them!**

Parents find these books equally as engaging as their children do! Each child in the class is a member of our engaging Elephant and Piggie Book Club. The special home-to-school recording envelope for Mo Willems' Elephant and Piggie books make it simple for children to bring their books back to class; then they get to choose another favorite Mo Willems book to bring home.

Some ongoing thoughts and ideas:

- It is important for families to understand how best to support their child with these books. (See our parent letter.).
- We are considering making audio recordings of each book read well. (We are hoping Mo Willems will do this!)
- Continue discussing the characters and their special friendship and review the unique text features Mo Willems uses and his fun words like “Ugh!”
- Teach the children to draw Elephant and Piggie and let the children create their own book with these endearing characters.
- Invite children to write a thank-you letter to Mo Willems and tell him what they think about his books (accompanied by photos, of course, so he can see how he has made them smile!)

