

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



Rereading for fluency and delight at home and at school **builds confident readers: that is the goal of our Elephant and Piggie Book Club.** At the beginning of the year, it is customary for young readers to be placed in leveled books that are often **limited in vocabulary—and imagination.** My goal is to always engage them in **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 occasionally a love of books and desire to read are more critical than the “**just-right reading level**” in motivating children to **enjoy reading!**

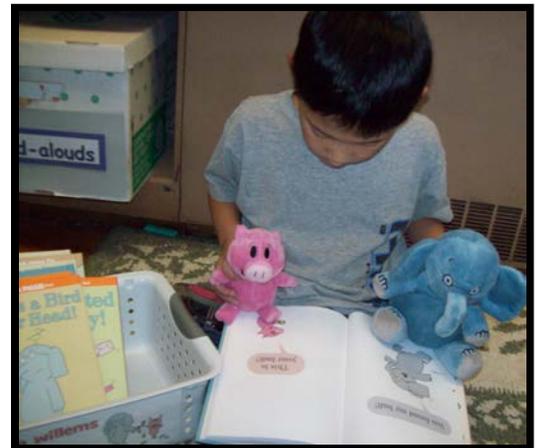
The children eagerly want to hear—and read—each book again and again.

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 Elephant and Piggie Book Club. The special home-to-school padded recording envelopes for Mo Willems’ Elephant and Piggie books make it simple for children to bring their books back to class; they then 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 well-read recordings of each book. (Or we are hoping Mo Willems does this first!)
- 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 books with these endearing characters. (See drawing template.)
- 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!)



If you serve children from low-income families, First Book can help. Sign up at www.fbmarketplace.org/elephant-and-piggie-friendiversary-collection.html.

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