

Everyday Resources that Can Drive Instruction and Make for a Successful School Year

In my 4 years of teaching I have taken MANY professional development hours all with resources and books that provide additional support in the classroom.

Each of these resources will be briefed on the webpage but you can get a list of my favorite resources and a quick intro as to why and how they can benefit you NOW!

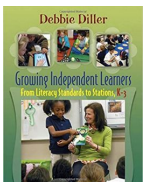
Before I list the resources that have been amazing I wanted to first list a few authors as most of my resources have MANY books and webpages that can offer SO MUCH and I want to make sure you are able to look these Authors up and research them.

1. Debbie Dillar
2. Kathy Richardson (Math)
3. Ron Clark
4. Jim Faye
5. Deedee Will (kindergarten pro)
6. Deanna Jump (kindergarten pro)
7. Lori Oczkus (literacy specialist)

I know there are many other amazing

In this section I will outline some of my favorite books and resources and they a lot will go in with those Authors mentioned above:

[Debbie Dillar: Growing Independent Learners: From Literacy Standards to Stations K-3.](#)



I love this book. This book provides so many beneficial resources from how to create anchor charts and the importance of borders, using specific colors and staying away from others. You will also get great insight into all your reading standards and how to work with your students in a whole group setting to eventually get them to engage in different literacy activities independently in stations.

Next year might look a lot different but it does mean that we will need to focus a lot on independent study, this will be a great resource for that. It will also talk about the space in your classroom and setting it up.

Debbie Dillar: Spaces and Places: Designing Classrooms for Literacy.

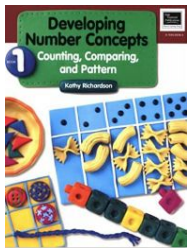
This book was in a professional development course and I was able to borrow it to help with setting up my classroom my third year. This was the first year I didn't have my mentor with me so this book really helped me look at my spaces, where to start and how to make it work.



***Look up Debbie Dillar, she has book about literacy stations, math stations (growing independent thinkers) and another I really enjoy from her is the "Making the Most of Small Groups: Differentiation for All (I really want to read through this again but its locked in my classroom; bummer)*

A great resource for Math:

Kathy Richardson: Developing Math Concepts (Books 1-3):



When you look her up she has so many amazing books about math activities. I used this a lot in kindergarten. I used all of her activities, occasionally I realized that I was already playing some of those activities with my kids but I called them something else. What is great is that her books provide examples, lessons to go with them and it talks about all the different standards that are so important to build a strong foundation.

I was very lucky to meet her at a conference and the conversation I had with her was priceless... I will share my story about that later so be on the lookout for that post. Our conversation had a lot to do with the math standards and strategies.

***She also has a planning guide but then an assessment set of books that I really like because it is how to implement difference assessments for all the different standards.*

Management and Structure:

Daily 5: Fostering Literacy Development in the Elementary Grade

This book is about structuring literacy and math for stronger independence and ability to meet with small groups uninterrupted.

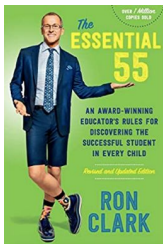


Ron Clark: The Essential 55

He is amazing and even has such an amazing school, I truly wish I could visit.

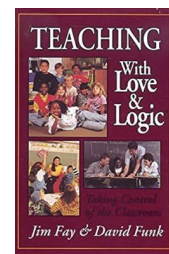
If you don't know him look him up. He has done such great things for kids in Harlem and across so many rougher schools. I can also say that I was privileged to have him during my first year orientation for my school district and his discussion was so empowering. I am actually reading this book again now. The goal of his teaching methods and this book is to empower students and bring the best out in them; it's about demanding respect, it's about demanding manners. I love this book and will be

implementing this. I will be using this a lot and even using it as a support for my parents so they know what I will be expecting of students as they are in school and in any public place. I hope that if I can share this knowledge with my parents that they will expect this at home as well.



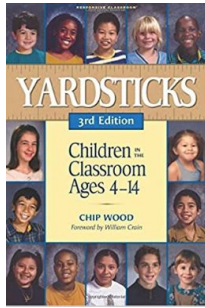
Jim Faye and David Funk: Teaching with Love and Logic

I love him. This book was the first book I read on the recommendation of my mentor. This book is all about how we communicate with our kids and how important that is in our teaching practice. He does go against the idea of rules, but you have to read about what it is he is explaining. I also recommend looking him on and watching videos of him speak because he is inspiring.



Directly from his book: *"puts teachers in control, teaches students to think for themselves, teaches responsibility and gives students the understanding on how to function in a world with temptations, consequences and discipline."*

Yardsticks by Chip Wood



For classroom management I also recommended knowing the expected developmental ages of your students. One thing I have learned on my National Board Journey (in progress) is knowing what they are developmentally ready for will impact your management strategies HUGE. One simple reader and IMPORTANT text I HIGHLY recommend reading RIGHT NOW is called Yardsticks. It lays out the development of students by age. Then within the age their growth development, academic development, language, cognitive, social/emotional development.. By knowing what should be you are then able to judge once you know your students if they are where they "should be." All kids develop differently both academically and in growth. So with that, it would be important to know the ages before and after as well to determine the best way to work with your students. Again this book is called **Yardsticks: by Chip Wood**

I can keep listing books and resources so I will:

- 1) [The Reading Strategies](#): Your Everything Guide to Developing Skilled Readers
(they also have this for writing)
- 2) [Core of Writing](#): (they have across all grades) - great for planning writing lessons, anchor charts and topics for writers.
- 3) [The Not This but That Series](#): These are all AMAZING written with actual classroom teachers, they are quick reads and very eye opening. I linked 1 book but they have several, look through all of them if you can, I will be looking at the Recess book soon.
- 4) [Reciprocal Teaching At work](#): by Lori Oczukus - amazing resource to grow your students comprehension. The use of strategies in daily content, fluency passages and in close reads. You can even look her up on Vimeo. She also has [fluency style Close Reads](#) that are amazing!

- 5) [Jan Richardson](#): The Next Step Forward in Guided Reading and the Teachers Companion. - Very helpful for you guided reading groups; activities and how-to.
- 6) **Online Resource: For Kindergarten: Look into Deanna Jump and Deedee Wills; they have great resources for implementing reading, writing and math. You can purchase all there tools and lessons on TPT

I know that I am missing some important books and resources, but with my classroom on quarantine lockdown I am sad that I can't get in there. If you have read anything, done a professional development or book study on a resource you have used please send me a comment. I would love to look into them myself and add to this list!

I really hope this all helps you. I know that it is a lot but I promise all of these books are worth looking into and reading. You can easily organize a book study at your schools or online (considering our current teaching models). You will appreciate these resources and you will go back to them frequently in your classrooms. I am going through several of them over the summer now to help me prepare for a strange and successful new school year.

LINKS TO ALL THESE BOOK ARE ON THE WEBSITE: FOLLOW THE LINK HERE TO GET QUICK ACCESS TO THESE RESOURCES NOW!

<https://theteachermomscramble.com/great-resources-books/>

Heather

