

**Description:** The reading interview is a small conference time of around 5-10 mins the teacher has with each child.

**Why:** Teacher conferences allow teachers to get to know the reader and understand any difficulties they have. The reader can also talk about their own concerns etc. about their reading. It is a great way to build a relationship between the teacher and reader.

**How:**

- To make it a positive experience, the interview does not take on an interrogation feel.
- I look at the book they are reading at present and we talk about how they are enjoying it, why they selected it etc.
- I also look at their reading logs and talk to them about what they have read and if they have had any problems, like 'reader's block', selecting books etc.
- I also write down some points in their reading journal, i.e. when we meet, what we talked about or any suggestions for future books.
- I try to do these sessions in SSR and call up one student at a time for a 5-10 minute interview.
- The reading interview makes sure there are no surprises about students who are falling behind. You can see if they are struggling with their books or not reading at all etc.

**Frequency:** It is recommended in 'SSR with Intervention' that the students have an interview once a week, but as often as possible if that is not feasible.

**Impact:** This is harder to measure but I personally feel I have a better understanding and relationship with each student as a reader. These are enjoyable sessions for me and the student (I hope). Some of these one on one sessions have made a big impact. One girl had read very little and after our chat I discovered she still had difficulty selecting books. We looked at the things she liked and her reading ability and together found her 2 or 3 series she was interested in. She never looked back.

**Links:**

"Reading Clinic: A Strategy Inventory for Every Reader" <http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/lessonplans/instructor/readclin1.htm>

Atwell, Nancie, *The Reading Zone*, Sydney, Scholastic, 2007

Preddy, Leslie B, *SSR with Intervention Westport*, Connecticut, Libraries Unlimited, 2007

Routman, Regie, *Reading Essentials Portsmouth*, NH, Heinemann, 2003