

Sample Session Summary



Session Dates: August 14,19, 20

Tutor: Ava Locks

Child: Joe

Objective:

- *establish comfort, exposure and practice in skills needed for reading and writing*
- *Develop reading and writing strategies to support active reading and comprehension*
- *Complete summer assignments provided by school*
- *create supplemental activities to learn important concepts in different contexts*

Activities:

- *Manchester United-Wayne Rooney Not for Sale-Fact vs. Opinion*
- *"North and South", The Clash -word meaning using context clues*
- *Who am I Poem-Soccer*
- *Lunch Money-Venn Diagram-Character Compare*
- *Lunch Money-Sentence work*
- *Dragon Slayers' Academy-Active Reading Strategy-Story Map*
- *Sight Word Racer*

Working with Joe is a joy. From our initial session it was clear that he was comfortable with me. Joe expressed interest in playing the same game as his sister. We played Sight Word Racer which proved very easy for Joe but allowed him to build comfort and confidence. After completing the game I asked that we do a listening activity. I would read something to Joe and he would have to listen carefully for when I read something that was a fact versus an opinion. We defined the difference between the two before we started. Joe seemed interested but not excited to be doing what he called 'work'. I started reading from a newspaper article about Manchester United and Joe was

delighted. He enjoyed this exercise and did very well with identifying the difference. After reading the passage we used a color coded system to highlight examples. It was when I asked that Joe transfer the information in writing that he lost interest. I allowed Joe to use the chart to keep score of facts and opinions as a compromise to writing out the examples.

Joe also seemed to enjoy using lyrics from a Clash song as an activity about defining word meaning using context clues. Providing content that was of interest to build skill was my intention and it proved valuable. Instead of writing a poem about himself, something he did not want to do, Joe wrote about his love of soccer. Using already written prompts, (i.e. I feel, I want) Joe crafted a poem about scoring in a game. It was a wonderful poem and accomplished the goal of expressive writing.

Joe had begun reading Lunch Money as a summer reading selection. I asked that he explain what the book was about and he did so with great detail. We worked on a character compare and contrast using a Venn diagram. Joe was able to provide supportive details highlighting how the characters in the story were enemies with the same goal. I asked that Joe write three sentences about the characters and to also make a prediction about the characters. While he does not like to write, he is able to express himself with ease and detail. Having Joe say the sentence before he writes it both slows him down and also allows for more supportive writing to be developed.

I introduced Joe to a few book selections for his summer reading assignment. He selected Dragon Slayers' Academy. We took turns reading and it was evident that he liked what he selected. During the reading of the book we would stop and record information on a story map chart. When Joe first saw the chart he said he did not want to do it but as the story progressed he participated with excitement. He was happy to announce that we needed to stop and include something we had just read. The book is once again an example of content that Joe is interested in making the 'work' more engaging.

In each session I require that Joe do some writing and indicate that I will also do some. Sharing the work allows Jonah not to feel overwhelmed and builds both expressive skills as well as his ability to remain focused and on task. I will continue to increase his participation in our sessions in a manner that is not daunting to Jonah.

Joe and I have read five of the nine chapters of the book and will complete it in our next session. It was clear that he enjoyed reading the book as he wanted to finish the book on his own. He also did not want me to read ahead to find out what happens. I am pleased that the selection was successful and will be able to be used for additional skill building.