

Ideas on Communicating about ECRI

1. Send home an initial letter to alert the parents of change.
2. Do a short demonstration and explanation to the school board and give them each a copy of the letter you are sending home to the parents. (Those of you who do not sit on your school board, ask your principal for permission to attend the first meeting for this purpose.)
3. Schedule to do a 10 - 15 minute demonstration with the students at the first Home & School Meeting that school year. Encourage all board members to attend the meeting.
4. Begin sending home notes / comments each time a student completes a Mastery Test.
5. Plan a student led conference with the parent as soon as the student is ready to explain and show the parents what they are doing in ECRI. The conference does not have to be long or formal. Just 10 or 15 minutes for the child to explain to the parents about ECRI and the Practice Time folder.
6. Hold a conference at the end of the first nine-week period with you and the students demonstrating a Mastery Test and a conference session.
7. Continue to communicate progress of the student as needed.

Dear Parents,

This year we are beginning an exciting, new reading program called ECRI (Exemplary Center for Reading Instruction). I have just finished one week of training to begin to learn the program and I am very excited about what I have learned. Now, we are ready to begin implementing ECRI into the language arts program for this school year.

In order for this to be successful, I need your help. The first thing I need is for you to understand that for the next three weeks we will be learning the PROCESS of how ECRI works. The words that your child may be given may or may not be on his or her INSTRUCTIONAL level because we are working on the PROCESS. After the PROCESS has been learned, the students will then be placed in their INSTRUCTIONAL levels and we will continue the PROCESS on their INSTRUCTIONAL levels. I need you to keep this in mind as ECRI begins to unfold in the classroom. The first three or four weeks can be very challenging for both the students and the teacher, but as the PROCESS is established and the students begin to understand how to do ECRI, a transition will be made to their INSTRUCTIONAL levels and the challenge of learning ECRI will shift to the challenge of learning about reading and language skills on their instructional levels.

As soon as the first three or four weeks of school has been completed, the students and I will schedule a demonstration of the ECRI program for Home & School. This will help you to better understand what this program is about.

For now, I want to thank you for your understanding and support as we begin a new program at the school. Please bear with us for the first three weeks or so as we endeavor to get the program off the ground and running smoothly. The effort will be well worth the extra uncertainty and frustration as you and the students shift the paradigm of thinking about how we learn to read, write, and spell.

See you soon with an ECRI demonstration!

PS. For those of you who might be interested in more information, please contact me and I will be happy to share a more complete description of the program and the available research.

Congratulations!

has passed Mastery Test _____.

The Mastery Test included the following:

1. Completing the Practice Time requirements.
2. 100% on the oral spelling test.
3. 100% on a timed reading of the word list.

Date _____

Teacher's Signature _____

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1. Completing the Practice Time requirements.
2. 100% on the oral spelling test.
3. 100% on a timed reading of the word list.

Date _____

Teacher's Signature _____

Congratulations!

has successful completed a Conference Session on Level _____.

The Conference Session includes the following:

1. A timed reading from a story previously studied.
2. Reading aloud to the teacher from a story.
3. Answering four levels of comprehension questions about a story.
4. A handwriting evaluation of the student's written work.
5. Other: _____.

Date _____

Teacher's Signature _____

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5. Other: _____.

Date _____

Teacher's Signature _____

Congratulations!

_____ has passed Mastery Test _____.

The Mastery Test included the following:

1. An oral spelling test
2. A timed reading of the word list
3. Reading aloud to the teacher from the story
4. Answering comprehension questions about the story
5. A handwriting evaluation of the student's written work
6. An evaluation of written sentences using the word from the word list
7. Alphabetizing the word list

Date _____

Teacher's Signature

Congratulations!

_____ has passed Mastery Test _____.

The Mastery Test included the following:

1. An oral spelling test
2. A timed reading of the word list
3. Reading aloud to the teacher from the story
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Date _____

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