

Types of Small Groups *and* Who Will Be *in* Each

Consider these small group options and related purposes as you work with diverse learners in your classroom. Think about students' developmental reading stage as you plan.

TYPE OF SMALL GROUP	DEVELOPMENTAL STAGE	PURPOSE
Oral language group	Emergent readers and newcomers to a language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop language through speaking (e.g., longer sentences, vocabulary development, oral grammar usage)
Sound and letter learning group	Emergent readers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build phonological awareness (sound work) Learn sounds, letter names, and letter formation
Shared reading group	Emergent readers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop print awareness (e.g., high-frequency words, left to right, one to one)
Guided reading group	Emergent, early, and transitional readers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support students where they are (using developmental reading levels) and guide their reading practice
Word study group	All stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn phonics, spelling, and vocabulary that match development (e.g., emergent: kids' names, CVC work; early: high-frequency words and phonics; transitional: phonics patterns and vocabulary; fluent: morphology)
Writing group	All stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect reading to writing; write responses Build a love of writing and know their voice is valued Improve writing craft and conventions at children's development level
Book club	Transitional and fluent readers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deepen comprehension Create a community of fluent, avid readers
Inquiry group	Fluent readers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independently and collaboratively investigate to find answers to questions students have Use findings to take actionable steps