High-Quality PreK-3rd in the Age of Common Core

New Schools Project

- Partner with Chicago schools to develop high quality, coordinated PreK-3rd grade
- On-site professional development, teacher coaching, grade-level and cross-grade teamwork
Guiding Questions

• What does responsive and intellectually-ambitious PreK-3rd look like?

ELA and Literacy: Reading Comprehension

• What does it mean for young children to think about text in intellectually important, meaningful ways?

Transformation!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FROM</th>
<th>TO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Must get the letters, sounds, words right first</td>
<td>• Integrate skills and strategies to support deeper understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Not with my students!</td>
<td>• Spirit of Common Core</td>
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**Spirit of Common Core**

Students who . . . .

- readily undertake the close, attentive reading that is at the heart of understanding and enjoying high quality literature.
- engage in critical reading that builds knowledge, enlarges experience, and broadens world views.
- express and listen carefully to each others’ ideas, adding to each other’s perspectives and understanding.

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**Promising steps: WHAT we teach**

- Who is thinking?
- What is the thinking about?
- Elevate the content of comprehension:
  - Author’s Message
  - Critical Literacy
Promising steps: HOW we teach

• Active engagement with texts

• High level talk

• Time as a resource

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Promising Steps: Writing about Reading

“I now see that the intellectual level of children’s reading comprehension is not fully assessed by tests; It’s more about finding ways to observe their thinking.”

1st grade teacher
Responsive and Intellectually Ambitious PreK-3rd:

The Promise

“I see myself as a completely different instructor. I truly feel like the facilitator of children’s learning and thinking, not a dictator.

I am more thoughtful in questioning; my plans are more deliberate and effective. It has been a very welcome transformation.

When I go home at the end of the day, I feel like even my most challenged students have done something that was meaningful for them. I feel that the most advanced student went home feeling like he/she has a place in this classroom also.

This new thinking about reading forces me to consider all students at all levels because at the end of the day what I want them to do is comprehend and learn from what they read - - - and to comprehend well above what was ever expected of them.”

2nd grade teacher

The friends are not very nice to him.

They should still be friends with Tico.

Some people are prettier than you, and you still be nice. That's OK.

If you're jealous you can make others feel bad, sad, and angry.

Tico is happy because he has golden wings.