



What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor a child's independent reading practice.

How does it work?

Your child will complete an online assessment. They then pick a book at their own level and read it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short online quiz (in school). Passing the quiz is an indication your child has understood what was read.

Why do we use it?

Accelerated Reader gives children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to direct ongoing reading practice and set goals.

Teachers and teaching assistants help your child choose books at an appropriate readability level that are challenging, without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading e.g. by reading to or with your child, talking about the books you are reading or visiting the local library. Reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a life-long love of reading and learning, and ensuring learning is a family affair.

Will my child have to read a book they don't enjoy or that I don't want them to read?

No. There are many, many choices of books at your child's level. We encourage children to give every book a chance but children are allowed to change if they are not enjoying the book.

How does the school determine my child's reading level?

At CJS, we use the Renaissance STAR Reading Test. We also use the results of this test alongside our other assessments and our professional judgement. The STAR reading test is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. If the child's response is correct, the difficulty level will increase. If the child gets a question wrong or skips a question, the difficulty level is reduced. Once completed, the test produces a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development). This is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing them frustration or loss of motivation. **Do not worry about the book level your child is on. As long as they are reading within their ZPD, the teacher will ensure the book is at the correct level for them.**

How will I know if a book has an Accelerated Reader quiz?

You can use www.arbookfind.co.uk to find out if a book has an Accelerated Reader quiz.

Is it ok for my child to read outside of their ZPD?

Just because a child can read the words in a book doesn't mean the content is appropriate or that they will understand the content. We encourage children at CJS to read books that have been classified as LY (lower years) or MY (middle years) as these books will be age appropriate.

Accelerated Reader recommends children read books within their ZPD range 60% of the time.

My child is already a strong reader. Why do they need to use Accelerated Reader?

Even if a child is gifted at playing a musical instrument, they still need to practice to develop their talent. It is the same with reading. Accelerated Reader supports teachers in providing challenge to all readers. However, once a child is reading above a 5.0 they become a free reader which means they can choose any book to read within their ZPD and need less guidance from the teacher. This is because their reading has become good enough that we are not concerned about their ability to access our books.