

Learning About Words in Second Grade (Phonics)

Marie Clay (1993) tells us that a competent reader “*uses not just the sound of letters but phonological information from several levels of language. ...He will select a larger rather than a smaller unit for efficiency and may check one source of information against another.* (P.290)

In Guided Reading Fountas & Pinnell share the following insights:

- The phonics children learn in other settings (writing, centers, etc.) can be called up during guided reading lessons. The reading-writing connection is very important to early readers.
- Guided reading is a good place to teach phonics because it allows phonics to be taught in context as it is needed.
- During guided reading lessons, teachers take the opportunity to teach both predictable letter-sound relationships as well as words that do not have predictable relationships.

(See p. 164-165)

During this colleague visit, think about the opportunities the children had during the lesson to work on words.