



# Using 100 BOOK CHALLENGE® Skills Cards

## A Parent's Guide

The 100 BOOK CHALLENGE Skills Cards travel between school and home daily. They are made to help you, the parent, be a successful Home Reading Coach and help your child make growth in reading. On each card, you will find the skills and strategies for each level. The included Comprehension questions match the higher-order thinking skills required by high-stakes tests. Here we've included some tips to help you make the best use of the Skills Cards.

### Responsibilities of a Home Reading Coach

- ☆ Turn off TV, phone, computers, and games. Eliminate distractions.
- ☆ Read with your child, or observe him/her reading, for 30 minutes. (For children in 1Y through 1R, taking breaks may be necessary.)
- ☆ Think and talk about the books afterward. **THIS IS WHEN TO USE THE SKILLS CARD** (see right).
- ☆ Sign 100 BOOK CHALLENGE logsheet. Sign ONE line for each 15-minute Step of reading.
- ☆ Have the student pack up the books for a safe return to school.

### The Basics of Coaching

1. Let your child do the work. The 100 BOOK CHALLENGE focuses on INDEPENDENT reading. If your child has selected appropriate books, you should not have to help him at all. He should enjoy the reading, and so should you. Listen all the time. Don't talk unless you absolutely have to. If your child makes a mistake, do this:
  - ▶ WAIT and don't say anything. Give him a chance to work it out on his own.
  - ▶ If your child corrects the mistake, praise him. ("I like the way you fixed that all on your own.")
  - ▶ If your child goes on for a while and does not correct the mistake, try one of these:
    - Ignore it, if it does not change the meaning of the text (Saying *home* instead of *house* doesn't change the basic meaning. Saying *horse* instead of *house* does change the meaning.)
    - Ask if what he read makes sense.
    - Give him the word and keep on going. Don't make a big deal of it.
2. Give your child the coaching he needs, when he needs it. See the back of this letter for suggestions about what to look for and say at each of the color levels.
3. Talk to your child about reading. Reading is thinking. Use a comprehension question from the Skills Card to start a discussion. Or just ask, "What are you thinking?" Explore, don't test. Just as adults enjoy talking to friends about their reading, kids do, too. Make book talk a regular activity in your home--over dinner, in the car, anywhere--so long as it happens!
4. Take 5 minutes to practice your child's Power Goal, the one his teacher asked him to work on. Use flash cards if necessary. When using flash cards, remember the 80/20 rule: Make sure 80% is material that your child knows well, and only 20% is new. Feeling successful means she'll enjoy the practice and stay engaged longer.