

"One-on-one meetings are the ultimate confidence builders for students. They're especially effective as follow-ups to (instruction), when students practice a strategy. Your undivided attention to each child makes them feel that you care about their learning and will try to help them understand and improve."
-Robb, 1998

During a conference you might:

- Listen to the student read aloud to determine fluency and accuracy. (running record)
- Discuss a character, event, or problem in the story.
- Ask a question to get the child to think more deeply about the text.
- Ask the student if there's a part he/she didn't understand.
- Refer to the mini-lesson. Did they try the strategy while reading?
- Review the student's list of books read or his/her list of reading interests.
- Together, set some goals for the student.
- Discuss written responses in his/her reader response log.



Prompts to open the conversation:

- How's your reading going? or Talk to me about your reading.
- What are you thinking about your book?
- What is the best part of your reading so far?
- Is this a good book choice for you?
- Are you enjoying this author? or That is a [book, author] I love! What are you discovering about the book/author?

Sampling a student's oral reading:

- Read a part you really liked or Read from where you are.
- Listen to your reading. How does it sound?

Encouraging Monitoring and Reflection:

- How well are you understanding your book?
- Do you have any questions for me? How can I help?
- Are there any confusing parts? What can you do when you're confused?
- Is this book "just right" for you? Why or why not?
- What do you think about your reading list so far? Is it limited by genre, series, etc?

Encouraging critical thinking:

- Would you recommend this book to other students? Explain...
- What's the best part of your reading so far?
- What do you think about the author's writing style?
- How does this book compare with this author's other books?

Extending the student's reading interests:

- I suggest this [title, author, genre] because I think you would like it.
- What are you thinking about reading next?

Extending Problem-Solving Strategies:

- Let me show you a way to figure out that word.
- In today's mini-lesson, we... Have you tried that strategy?
- How are you doing with what you just learned in the mini-lesson?
- What problems have you encountered that I can help you with?