

Offer a Getting-to-Know-You Preview Stack

Engaging in a conversation about a stack of books you have hand-selected for the child allows you to gain valuable insights into his reading preferences. The child will likely walk away with compelling books to read, and furthermore, you will gain valuable information to make more targeted recommendations in the future.

PREPARATION

- Put together a stack of about ten books that you know the student can likely read with success.
- Aim for variety in genre, format, topic, font size, amount of print, frequency of illustration, and physical size.
- Print copies of the Prompting Guide and Notes Form for Preview and Review Stacks.

STEPS

- Say to the student, *I picked out some books that I would like to look through with you. This will help us both understand your reading tastes. You may also find some books you would like to add to your book box for independent reading.*
- Spread the books in front of the student and ask, *Are there any books here that you know right away you would like to read? Are there any books here that you really are not interested in?*
- If the student is unsure, select a book from the pile and tell him a bit about it.
- Let him flip through various books in the stack, then encourage him to put the books into yes, no, or maybe piles.
- As the conference unfolds, use language from the Prompting Guide to elicit details about the student's interests and preferences.
- Remain neutral and validate the student's preferences, whether he likes each book or not.
- Jot down observations and quotes on the Notes Form.

TIP

- Use what you've learned about the student's interests and preferences to inform future book recommendations.