



# Literacy Development

Canadian International School of Beijing



## Building Blocks of Literacy Skills

CISB provides students a comprehensive and innovative education, keeping them engaged and eager to learn. With this mission in mind, we've integrated the Words Their Way (WTW) program into our language instruction from Grade 1 through Grade 5. This program ensures every student's rich and tailored learning experience.

Words Their Way stands out for its personalized approach to word study. The program recognizes the diversity in students' learning needs and has five developmental spelling stages. This structure allows educators at CISB to tailor instruction and practice to meet each student's unique learning journey. By addressing students' needs, every child can effectively develop their literacy skills and confidence.

Words Their Way encourages an engaging, hands-on approach to word study. Through interactive word sorts and other activities, students delve into word patterns and relationships. This active exploration helps them understand words profoundly and intuitively, laying a solid foundation for language mastery. The program's emphasis on engaging methods aligns with our commitment to making learning enjoyable and effective.

One of Words Their Way's many strengths is its adaptability within the busy school day. The program requires just 15 to 20 minutes of class time and fits seamlessly into our daily schedule, providing impactful word study without overwhelming students or teachers. Each lesson is manageable yet effective, including strategies for modeling, practicing, applying, and assessing learning. This ease of implementation ensures that our students receive consistent, high-quality instruction.

Offering personalized, engaging, and manageable word study instruction that meets the needs of our diverse student body prepares students for success in an ever-changing world. As we continue to embrace innovative approaches to education, we are confident that CISB students will emerge as confident, competent, and curious learners.



# Guided Reading



At CISB, we cultivate a community of avid readers and confident communicators. Our Guided Reading program, a cornerstone of our Primary Years Programme (PYP), demonstrates our commitment to language acquisition and fluency. This innovative approach supports our students in becoming proficient readers and plays a vital role in their language development journey.

Guided Reading at CISB is a meticulously structured process in which educators, including classroom teachers, librarians, and teacher assistants, work closely with small groups of students. These groups are thoughtfully organized based on the children's reading abilities, allowing for instruction that is finely tuned to meet each student's individual needs. Focusing on targeted skills such as inference, semantics, decoding, questioning, and deduction, students receive the support necessary to advance their reading capabilities.

Our educators are empowered to incorporate a wide range of texts into their Guided Reading sessions, including those that resonate with the current Unit of Inquiry. This flexibility ensures that reading is a skill-building activity and a meaningful exploration of themes and ideas that matter to our students.

From enhancing speaking and listening skills to bolstering comprehension and writing abilities, Guided Reading's impact extends far beyond the pages of a book. It fosters a rich literacy environment where students engage in shared reading experiences and are encouraged to explore the joy of reading in school and at home.

Guided Reading groups at CISB are vital to our mission to enhance language acquisition and fluency. By providing a supportive and enriching reading environment, we prepare our students for academic success and a lifetime of learning and exploration.



## Writing Instruction



At the CISB, our approach to teaching writing in our PYP Programme is strategic and behavioral, laying a solid foundation for students to express themselves confidently and creatively. Beginning with selecting topics that spark their interest, students are guided through narrowing their focus, engaging in enriching discussions, and developing a keen awareness of their audience and purpose. This process enhances their ability to gather and organize ideas and encourages them to draft and refine their writings with precision and care. By incorporating diverse writing genres into our curriculum, CISB is committed to enhancing our students' literacy skills, preparing them to navigate the literary world with confidence and mastery.

### Writing Strategies and Behaviors

Students begin by selecting topics, narrowing focus through discussions or personal interests, and demonstrating audience and purpose awareness. They gather ideas from diverse sources, draft writings with a developed topic and sufficient information, and use writing tools effectively. Students use feedback to revise the structure of their writing, while editing focuses on conventions. Students publish final pieces with appropriate text features.

### Our Writing Genres

- **Persuasive Writing:** It aims to convince others, incorporating clear positions, arguments with supporting statements, and a reinforcing conclusion.
- **Descriptive Report:** This report focuses on describing a topic in detail, supported by factual details from multiple sources, and includes an introductory definition or classification.
- **Explanatory Report:** This writing explains how or why something occurs, detailing parts of a processes logically.
- **Instructions/Procedures:** Guides on accomplishing tasks that include clear steps, needed materials, and a goal or aim, often supplemented with diagrams or illustrations.



- **Recount:** Narrates past events with a focus on who, what, when, and where, arranged logically and including a personal response.
- **Narrative:** This genre entertains through imaginative storytelling, establishing characters, setting, a problem, and events leading to a resolution. It often includes dialogue.

By integrating these writing genres into our curriculum, CISB enhances students' literacy skills and prepares them to navigate the literary world with confidence. Our approach to literacy teaches students to effectively read and write, and their opens doors to new worlds, ideas, and possibilities. As our students master literacy skills, they become proficient communicators, critical thinkers, creative innovators, and compassionate global citizens, ready to make their mark on the world.



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