

## ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development)

The *Zone of Proximal Development* (ZPD)...or *just right reading range*... is the readability range from which students should be selecting books in order to ensure sufficient comprehension and therefore achieve optimal growth in reading skills without experiencing frustration. Think of it as Goldilocks and the three little bears. Goldilocks has to find the book that isn't too hard (frustrating) and isn't too easy (easy & boring). She has to find the book that is just right (within her ZPD range)!

A student's ZPD range is determined when the student takes the *STAR Reading Enterprise* assessment. It is up to the teacher to monitor student reading within the range. Remember, no single testing tool is 100% accurate. Adjustments may need to be made!

Grade Equivalent Score	Suggestion ZPD Range
1.0	1.0 – 2.0
1.5	1.5 – 2.5
2.0	2.0 – 3.0
2.5	2.3 – 3.3
3.0	2.6 – 3.6
3.5	2.8 – 4.0
4.0	3.0 – 4.5
4.5	3.2 – 5.0
5.0	3.4 – 5.4
5.5	3.7 – 5.7
6.0	4.0 – 6.1
6.5	4.2 – 6.5
7.0	4.3 – 7.0
7.5	4.4 – 7.5
8.0	4.5 – 8.0
9.0	4.6 – 9.0
10.0	4.7 – 10.0
11.0	4.8 – 11.0
12.0	4.9 – 12.0

After a student takes the *STAR Reading* test, share the ZPD with the student. Do not share the grade equivalent score and other scores with the student.

**A student should be encouraged to read throughout the ZPD range and should not be limited to reading only one book level.** (As a teacher, your ZPD is probably 4.3 to 13.0). You might read the journal *Educational Leadership* for professional growth, but you probably enjoy reading the magazine *People Weekly* for enjoyment!)

A student may also read a book that is above the suggested ZPD reading range. If the student is interested in the topic and motivated, he will often perform well on the Reading Practice Quiz. Monitor the student's reading through the weekly dialogue meetings.

A student may also read below the suggested ZPD range as long as it is not a common practice.