

# **A Trio of Strategies: Support for At-Risk Students**

## **Kindergarten Reading Pals**

- ❖ **Accelerated readers in 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade are paired up with pre-emergent and emergent readers in kindergarten.**
- ❖ **Choose 3-4 solid, independent readers and good role models to work with kindergarten students. You can work with your students during readers' workshop or guided reading to guide them with what to say and do with their kindergarten pal. We met twice a week for 20 minutes periods. The teachers chose books from their leveled readers for the students to use.**
- ❖ **This activity provides extra support for the kindergarten students, a challenge for your accelerated students and an opportunity for the first grade teacher to get to know some of the upcoming kindergarten students that might need extra help. This activity also works well with at-risk first graders and accelerated 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.**

## **High School Mentors**

**In many districts, high schools are located within walking distance of some of the elementary schools and high school students are dismissed an hour or so before the elementary schools. Our principal and learning resource staff set up a program where the high school students would come once or twice a week to assist the teachers and work with students. Because we had readers workshop set up, as well as independent reading folders, this included little reading prep and the students looked forward to their time with their special high school student. I also had a basket full of activities/games that addressed specific skills that they could do as well.**

## **Teacher Mentors**

**Our principal and learning resource program also set up a teacher mentor program for at-risk children. Teachers were given the name of a student in another grade level. Once during the week, they were to try to connect with the student in some way. It could be saying "Hi" in the hall, complimenting them, asking them to come and help out in the room, and a variety of other ways of connecting one to the other.**