

Five essential components of effective reading instruction!

The National Reading Panel (i.e. reading scholars) identified five critical components that are critical to teaching a young reader. The science is clear on what works best for teaching reading to all readers.

The Five Essential Components (explicitly and systematically taught):

1. Phonemic Awareness
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2. Phonics
•••
3. Fluency
•••
4. Vocabulary
•••
5. Comprehension

2. PHONICS

Did you know that while there are only 26 letters in the English alphabet, there are 44 distinct sounds represented by a letter or letter combination? Phonics is the letter and letter combinations resulting in the 44 sounds.

Five Components of Reading

The science of reading is in!

Thousands of studies later and scientist have agreed on how skilled readers read and how we should be taught!



PHONEMIC AWARENESS HOME ACTIVITIES:

1. Change the first letter in a word to a new word. For example, change the /l/ (saying the /l/ sound) in lip to /s/ (saying the /s/ sound). What is the new word? Answer sip.
2. Name the sounds. What sounds are in the word mat? Answer: /m/ /a/ /t/ (sounds).



I. PHONEMIC AWARENESS

Phonemes are the smallest units of sound. It's the ability of the child to pronounce, identify, segment, blend, and manipulate individual speech sound when hearing a spoken word.

Phonemic awareness is the foundation (not the whole structure) that supports reading and writing the alphabet.



PHONICS HOME ACTIVITY:

Have flash cards with a picture on one side and the letter the picture starts with on the other side. Then show your child a picture and ask them to tell you the letter (or letter sound) it starts with (or ends with).

3. Fluency

Fluency is the ability to read text accurately and quickly, recognize words, and gain meaning from the text. Fluency is necessary to gain reading comprehension. A fluent reader reads with proper expression. The ability to recognize meaningful chunks of text helps develop fluency and comprehension.



Fluency Home Activity

Guided Oral Reading –An adult or peer reads with your child by modeling fluent reading and then asking the student to read the same passage aloud with encouragement and feedback by the adult or peer.

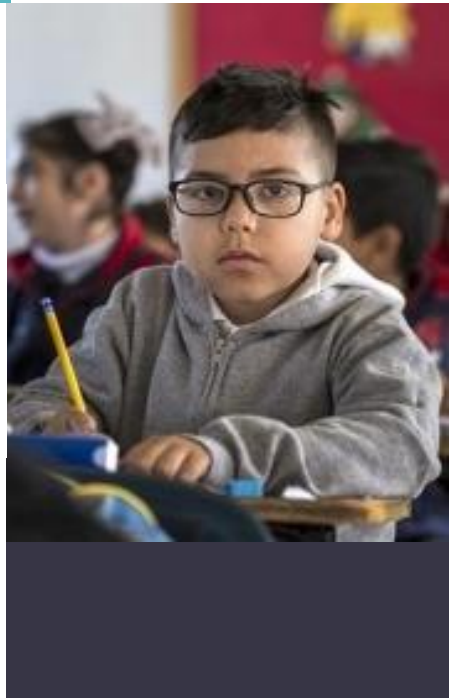
4. VOCABULARY

The National Reading Panel (NRP, 2000) confirmed the strong relationship between vocabulary learning and reading comprehension gains. The ability to expand your child's vocabulary includes knowing about word prefixes, suffixes, word roots, and multiple meanings of words. That way, when your child bumps into a new word, they can apply what they already know about the word.

Vocabulary Activities

Two home activities to build your child's activities:

1. **Start at the Root:** Start with a root word and then ask your child to come up with other words that contain the word. Come up with as many variations as possible!
2. **Multiple meanings:** Choose a word that has multiple meanings and then brainstorm and list as many meanings from that word.



5. COMPREHENSION

Reading Comprehension is making sense of what was read! It requires word recognition, fluency, vocabulary, world knowledge and verbal reasoning.



COMPREHENSION HOME ACTIVITIES

Retelling the story

Have your child retell the story they have read. This involves having your child orally reconstruct a story. The process provides the opportunity to summarize and make inferences.

Story Maps

Have your child draw out a story map which is a visual representation of the story. The drawings focus on the important elements of the story or text, including characters, settings, problems, events, etc. The drawings can be simple stick figures or more detailed drawings – it's up to you and your child!

To learn more about the Science of Reading, go to:

1. <https://www.doe.mass.edu/massliteracy/>
2. <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/english-language-learners-and-five-essential-components-reading-instruction>