

Components of Reading

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Overview

Reading is made up of multiple components, including: Oral Language, Fluency, Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Comprehension and Vocabulary. Together these components enable a child to

Oral Language:

Oral language is made up of two components, **speaking** (expressive language) and **listening** (Receptive Language). Together these enable a child to share meaning with others as well as understand what is being expressed. Oral language is the foundation for literacy skills.

Fluency:

Fluency is a key contributor to successful and independent reading. It is made up of 3 components: **accuracy, rate** and **expression**. Fluent readers read more words and therefore get more opportunities build their vocabulary, develop their word recognition skills, and comprehension

Phonological Awareness:

Phonological awareness is all about the sound structure of language. It is the understanding that speech is made up of words (e.g. apply **sunscreen**), that words are made up of chunks of sounds (e.g. sun-screen), and that these chunks are made up of individual sounds (e.g. s-u-n-s-c-r-ee-n). Developing this understanding is an important aspect of beginning reading.



Phonics:

Phonics is the understanding of the relationship between letters and sounds. While learning phonics helps children to 'crack the code' of the alphabetic system, letter-sound knowledge alone will not guarantee that children become successful independent readers. We need to encourage children to talk about, and question, the similarities and differences that they find in words.

Comprehension:

Comprehension is about understanding authors' messages and responding to these messages in a range of ways. Along with proficient decoding and fluency, comprehension increases children's knowledge about the world. Children should be reading a range of texts about different topics as well as reading multiple texts about the same topic.

Vocabulary:

Vocabulary knowledge is essential in children becoming independent and successful readers and writers. This knowledge includes words that are understood when they are heard or read. The link between vocabulary and comprehension is strong, having a broad vocabulary allows children to understand or discuss what they have read.