

The 5 Components of Reading Instruction

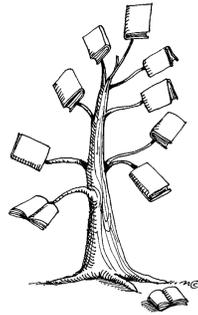
The National Reading Panel (NRP) developed 5 components of reading that consistently relate to students' reading success. The components include:

- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension



Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness is the ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words. Before children learn to read print, they need to become aware of how sounds in words work. They must understand that words are made up of speech sounds, or phonemes.



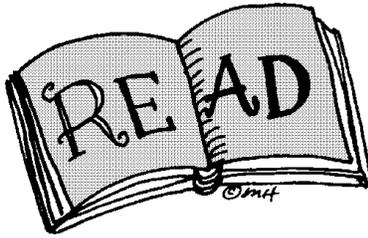
Phonics

Phonics instruction teaches children the relationships between the letters (graphemes) of written language and individual sounds (phonemes) of spoken language. It teaches children to use these relationships to read and write words.



Fluency

Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately and quickly. When fluent readers read silently, they recognize words automatically. They group words quickly to help them gain meaning from what they read. Fluent readers read aloud effortlessly and with expression. Their reading sounds natural, as if they are speaking. Readers who have not yet developed fluency read slowly, word by word. Their oral reading is choppy and plodding.



Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to the words we must know to communicate effectively. In general, vocabulary can be described as oral vocabulary or reading vocabulary. Oral vocabulary refers to words that we use in speaking or recognize in listening. Reading vocabulary refers to words we recognize or use in print.



Comprehension

Comprehension is the reason for reading. If readers can read the words but do not understand what they are reading, they are not really reading. Comprehension can help students understand what they read, remember what they read, and communicate with others about what they read.



Sources:

Put Reading First: The Research Building Blocks for Teaching Children to Read by the National Reading Panel (NPR)

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/clipart/category/lang.html>