



Provincial Outreach Program
for the Early Years

Building Blocks to Reading

January 29, 2024

1:00-3:00

*Handouts available at - popey.ca/workshop-resources

POPEY 



POPEY 

A bit about me...



Passionate about reading and writing with kids

Classroom teacher

Literacy Learner

Mom of two amazing boys + the best dog of all time





[Know the Facts About Reading](#)

$$D \times LC = RC$$



Decoding

**Linguistic
Comprehension**

**Reading
Comprehension**

Scarborough's Rope: Scarborough, 2001

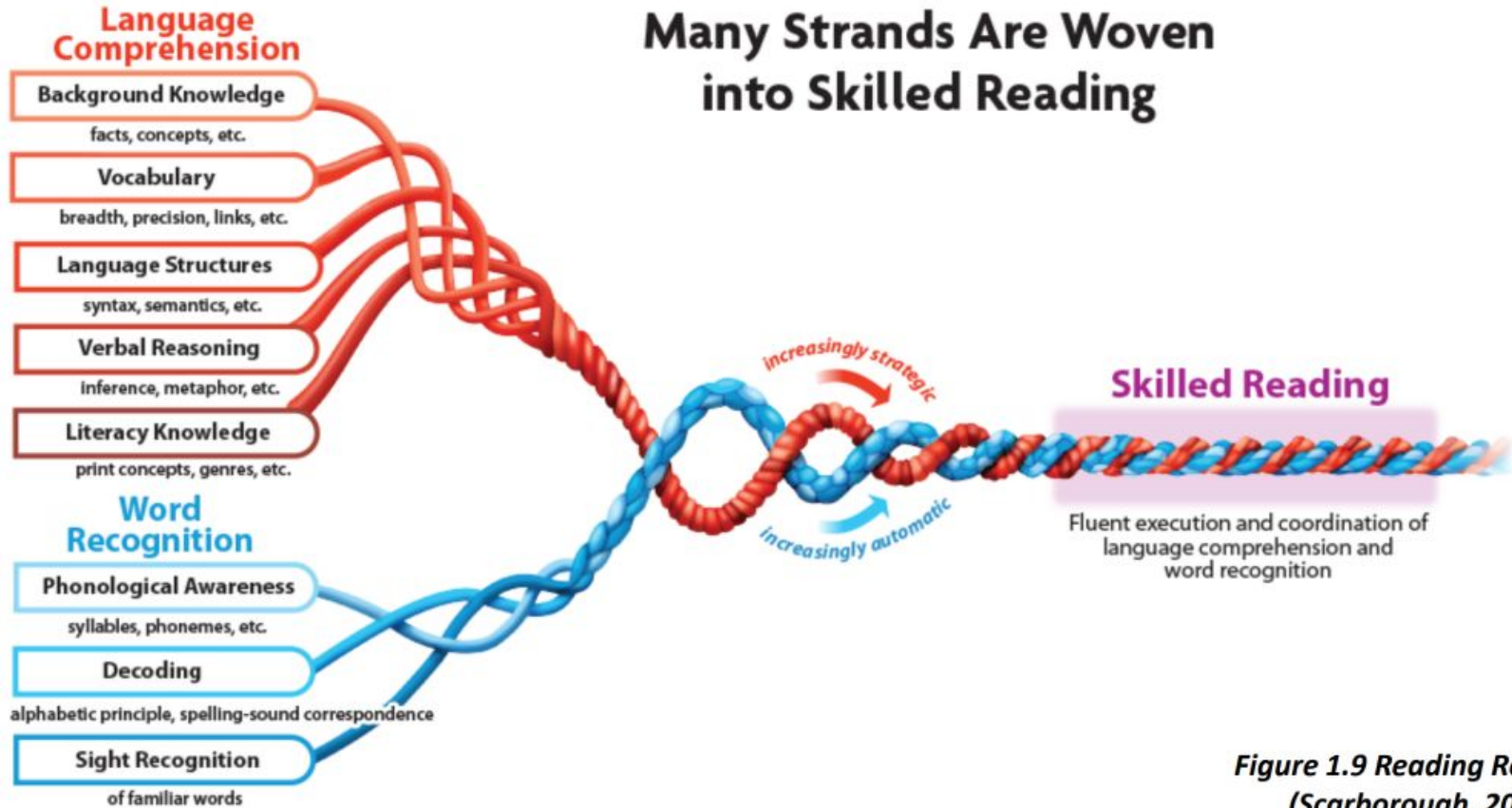
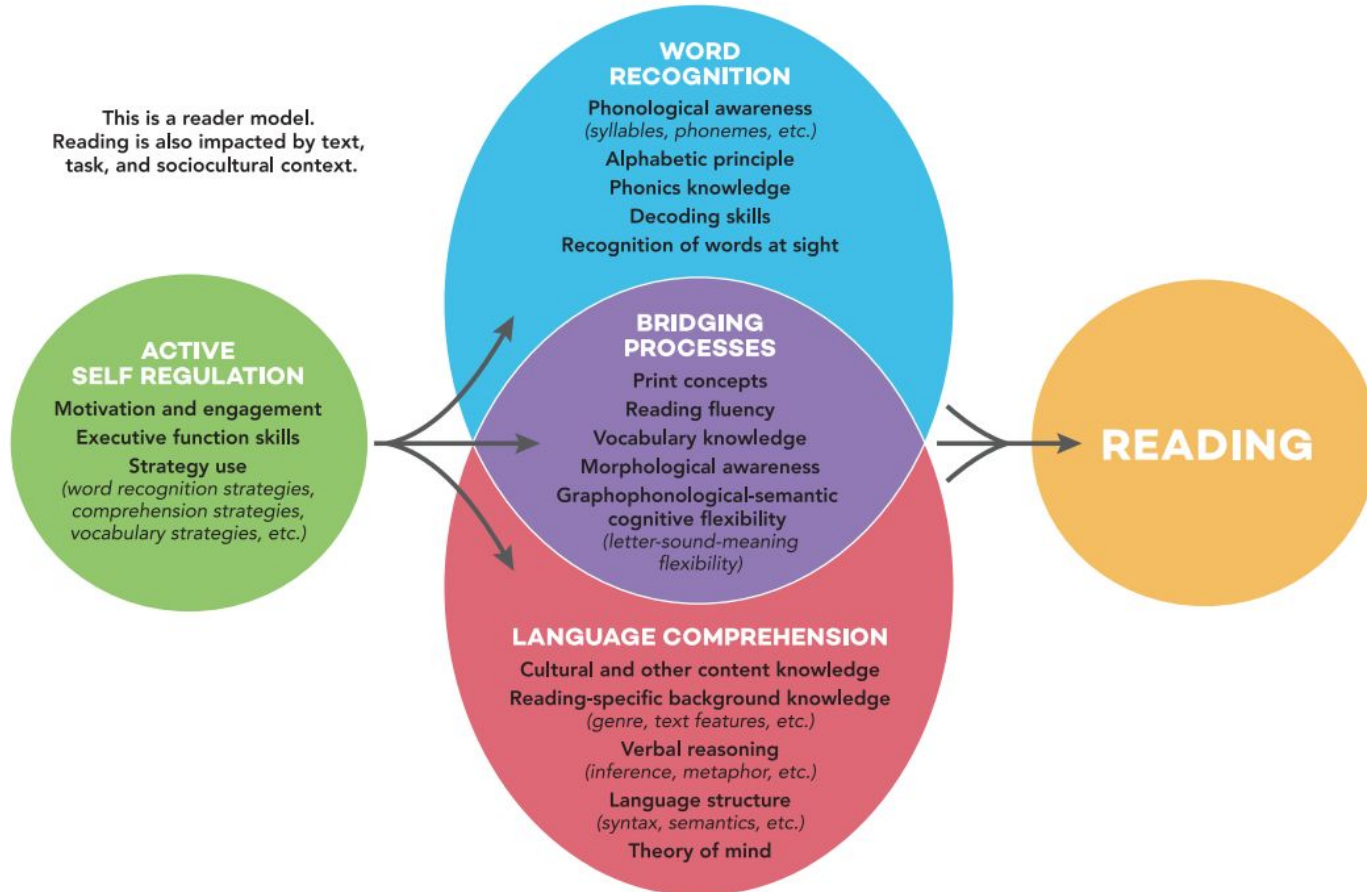


Figure 1.9 Reading Rope
(Scarborough, 2001)

The Active View of Reading: Duke & Cartwright, 2021



Jennifer Kelly

ACTIVE 



 READING



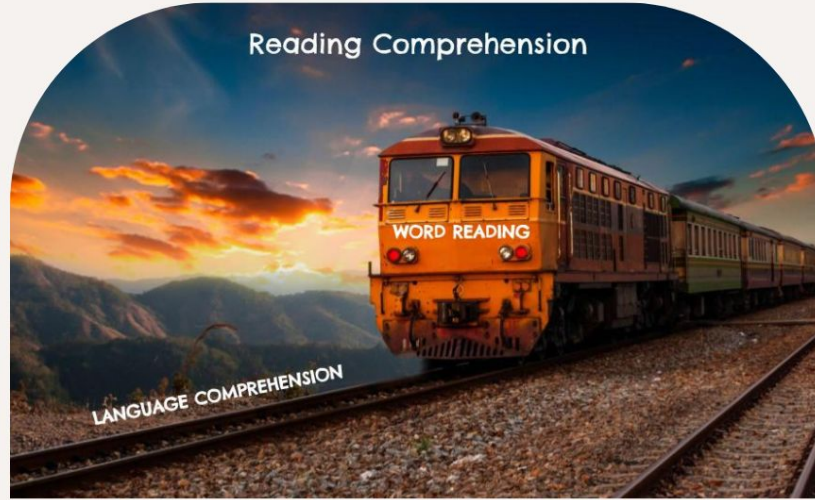
CLASSROOMS 

Strategies that Build
Language Comprehension and
Word Recognition Skills

Highlighted in Active Reading
Classrooms (Kelly, 2023)

- Bridging processes - strengthen both word recognition and language
- Self regulation - students are not passive participants in reading
- Highlights the importance of cultural knowledge as part of the way we understand language around us

Reading Comprehension

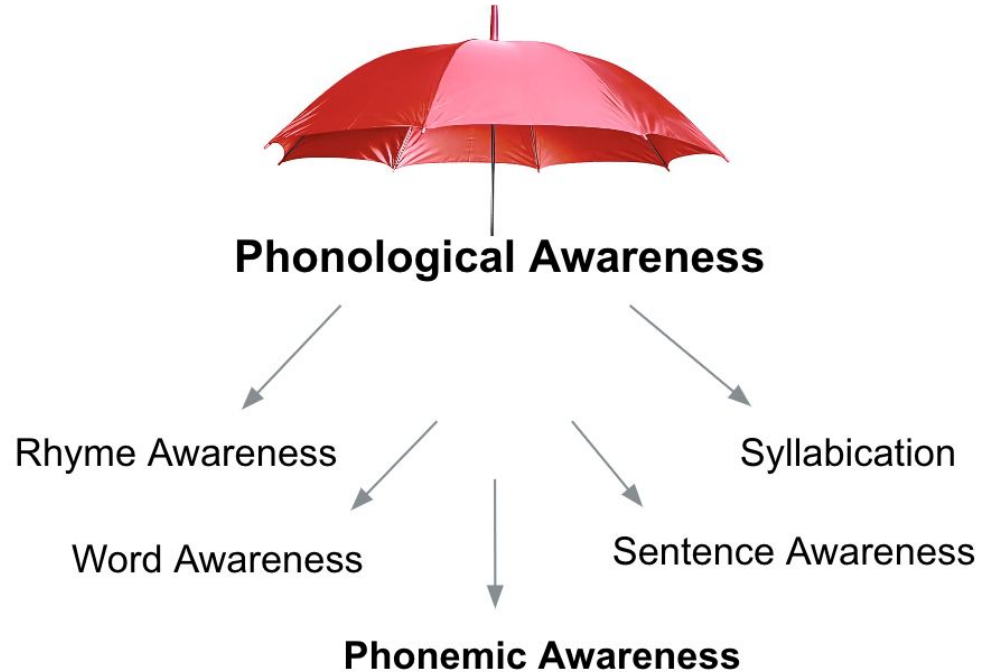


"Comprehension, the ultimate goal of reading, can't be reached without both the train and the tracks!"

@TheSixShifts



Over nearly four decades of research, "phonemic awareness has consistently been found to be the strongest precursor to, and predictor of, reading achievement" (Kenner, et al).



Phonemic Awareness: Instructional Practices

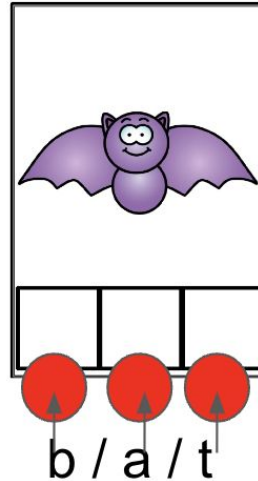
Whole Class Approach:

- Heggerty

Ideas from Jen's Book (p.39)include:

- Segmenting sounds from words in morning message
- Guess My Word - segment a word and have students blend the sounds back together to identify the word

Small Group Approach: Elkonin Boxes & Pop Its

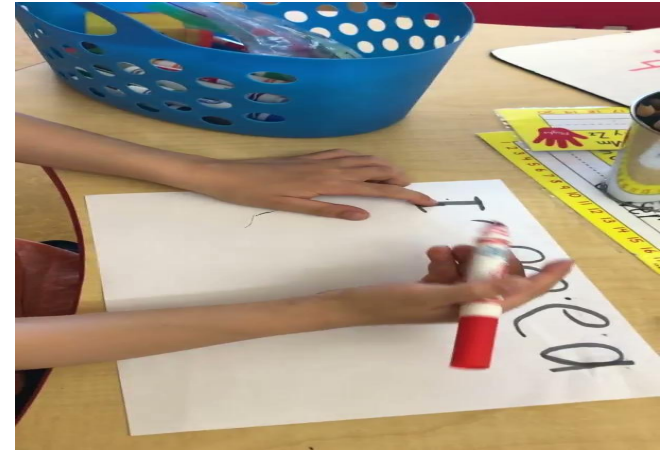


These task works on segmenting & blending.

1. Say the word
2. Push a chip or pop a button for each sound you hear
3. Smooth the sounds back out to say the word
4. Can increase in complexity by adding words with more sounds

Phonemic Awareness: Application

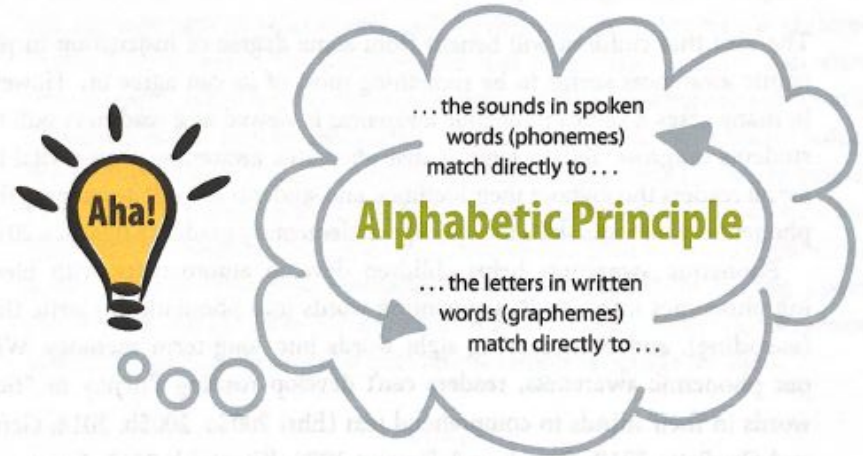
Erhi et al suggest that "phonemic awareness is not taught for its own sake but rather for its value in helping children understand and use the alphabetic system to read and write". Further, that it ought not to be taught "blindly in isolation ad nauseam without any connection to reading and writing" (2001).



Letter Sound Recognition & Alphabetic Principle

Alphabet recognition and phonemic awareness are the two best predictors of early reading success. Blevins states that “these skills open the gate for reading” (2017).

ALPHABETIC INSIGHT—THE “AHA” MOMENT FOR THE ALPHABETIC PRINCIPLE



Shifting the Balance by Jan Burkins and Kari Yates, Copyright © 2021.

How many words can you make from these letters:

s, m, t, d, l

vs

s, m, a, t, d

“

“When a child memorizes ten words, they can only read ten words.

If a child learns the sounds of ten letters, they will be able to read:

350 three-sound words,

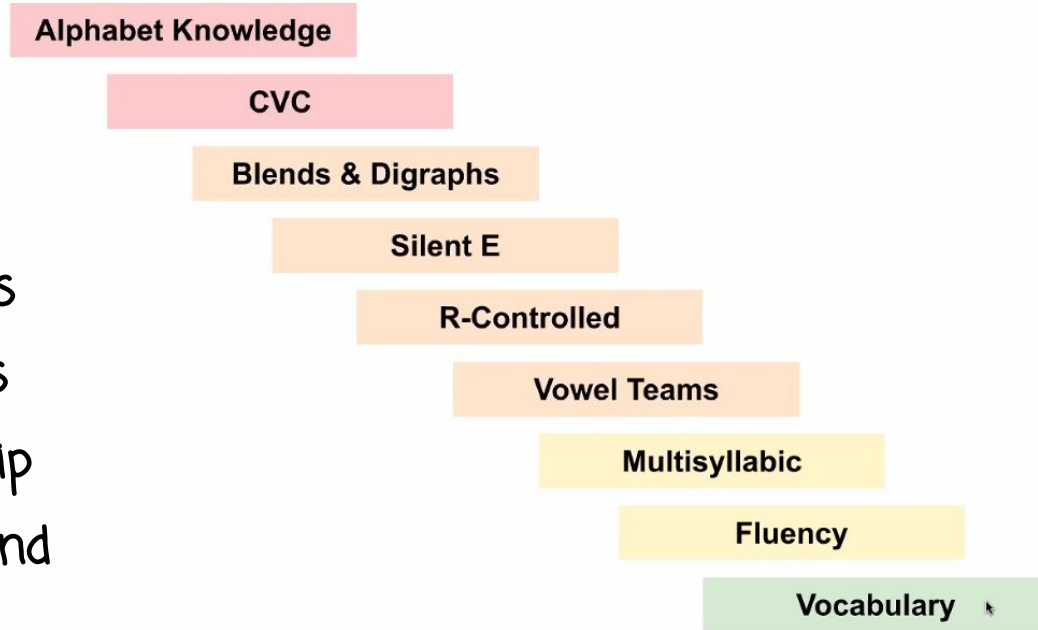
4,320 four-sound words and

21,650 five-sound words”.

”

Dr Martin Kozloff

Mesmer and Griffith (2005) define phonics as "a system for encoding speech sounds into written symbols.". Phonics is the way sounds and letters are connected. Students with phonics knowledge understand the relationship between letters, patterns of letters and sounds.



A PHONICS LESSON

SAME LETTER/SOUND FOCUS THROUGH EACH LESSON PART



REVIEW IT

- Review High Frequency words
- Name letters and sounds

HEAR IT

- Phonemic Awareness

TEACH IT

- Name new skill/sound

DECODE IT

- Decode words with target sound

SPELL IT

- Spell words with target sound

READ IT

- Read word lists, sentences or decodable books

The last two steps should be approximately 50% of your lesson time. Blevins states “students progress at a much faster rate in phonics when the bulk of instructional time is spent on applying the skill to authentic reading and writing experiences” (2017).



"Without aligned texts, readers are at risk of formulating the misguided hypothesis that reading is simply using pictures, and maybe a few letters, to infer the words. Worse yet, readers can begin to think that reading is just memorizing the text."

-Shifting the Balance 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom- Page 141





Patterned, Leveled Text: Whole Word



RED = decodable

BLUE = High Frequency Words

GREEN = story word - might use initial sound, guess, use picture

	
<p>Puppies get into lots of silly spots. 2 puppies are in the boots.</p> 	<p>Puppies get into lots of silly spots. 3 puppies are in the flowers.</p> 

Decodable Text: Letter Sound



Is the cap on a mat?
No! It is not on the mat.



Is Zac's cap on a can?
No! It is not on the can.

Classrooms need a range of texts for different instructional purposes.

Different texts receive different degrees of emphasis at each grade level.
But ALL are needed for a comprehensive literacy solution.



Decodable texts	vs.	Authentic literature
Research	vs.	Classroom practice
The art of teaching	vs.	The science of teaching
Individual student needs	vs.	Whole class efficiency
Direct instruction	vs.	Discovery Learning
Practice-in-isolation	vs.	Practice-in-context
Mastery of skills	vs.	Joy of Reading
Structure	vs.	Choice
Urgency	vs.	Joy

And, And, And...

Orthographic Mapping - what is it and why is it important?

Orthographic Mapping (Erhi, 2014) is a *cognitive process* by which children learn to read words by sight and spell words from memory

Orthographic Mapping

- Read section
- Share out at your table


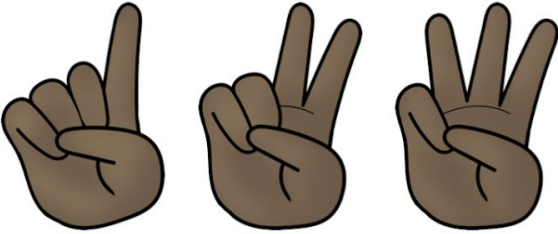


Word Mapping: supporting the cognitive process of orthographic mapping

Word mapping is a physical way to represent the relationship between the phonemes and graphemes.

Multisensory options:

- Pop its
- Play dough
- Unifix cubes

<p>① What's the Word</p> 	<p>② Tap the Word</p> 		
<p>③ Map the Word</p> <p>Sound out the word. Move a chip for each sound you hear.</p>			
<p>④ Graph the Word</p> <p>Use letters to correctly spell the word.</p>			

Because reading is turning written language back into spoken language so that the brain can "hear" it, if a reader doesn't have enough understanding of the language of a text, then they won't be able to comprehend it, even if they can decode it (Gough & Tunmer, 1986).

Reading Comprehension

WORD READING

LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION



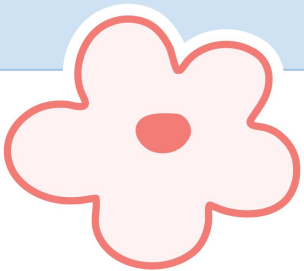
So what does this mean?

We need to invest in intentional effort in laying the language tracks that word reading runs on.

Students need:

- vocabulary
- strong command of oral language
- rich background knowledge





Interactive Read Alouds

Using connected text sets
to build knowledge

Classroom conversation

Modeling curiosity and love
for new and interesting
words



PURPOSEFUL
CONVERSATION BUILDS
VOCABULARY!

@TheSixShifts

Using Dialogic Conversations to Develop Oral Language



@TheSixShifts

1. Engage

Engage children in a verbal interaction around a text or just in general conversation. This may involve asking the child's opinion, asking the child to name or recall something from a text, or asking the child to make connections to personal experience.

2. Repeat

Repeat what children say, embedding this in your response in a natural way. If the student's response includes a mistake, only repeat the correct part or integrate a correction into this step.

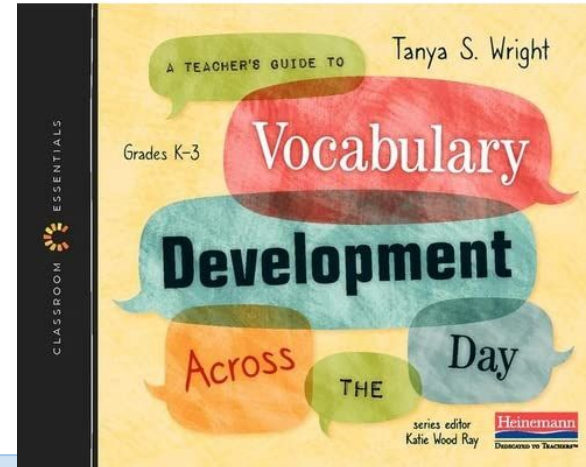
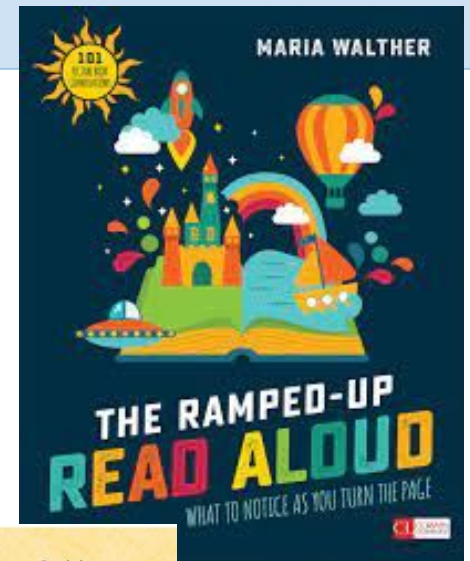
3. Expand

As you repeat, say a little more than what the child said. Expand the language to include a new word, phrase, or idea. Then begin the process again!

Read- Aloud Tips



- Choose text with more complex ideas, words, and language structures
- Preview texts for interesting and unfamiliar vocabulary worth exploring with children.
- Get comfortable using a parenthetical explanation of high-utility vocabulary
- Plan for meaningful conversation points in texts
- Have students utilize high-quality turn-and-talk practices



Vocabulary Instruction...

Vocabulary Planning Chart for a Unit Lesson

Learning Objective

There are different ways to describe the weather. We can observe and record the weather in our location.

Vocabulary and Child-Friendly Explanations

Data

Facts or information.

Observe

Use your senses to gather data.

Record

To write down or draw.

Weather conditions

What the weather is like outside.

Rain

Drops of water that fall from the clouds in the sky.

Wind

Moving air.

Snow

White pieces of frozen water that fall from the sky in very cold weather.

Sun

The star that gives earth heat and light.

When will I introduce new vocabulary?

During read-aloud, *What's the Weather?* weather conditions, rain, wind, snow, sun.

While showing materials right before outdoor observation of weather conditions: observe, data, record.

When will children have opportunities to use these words in a meaningful context?

Children will go outside to observe weather conditions on a recording sheet with space to draw and write or label.

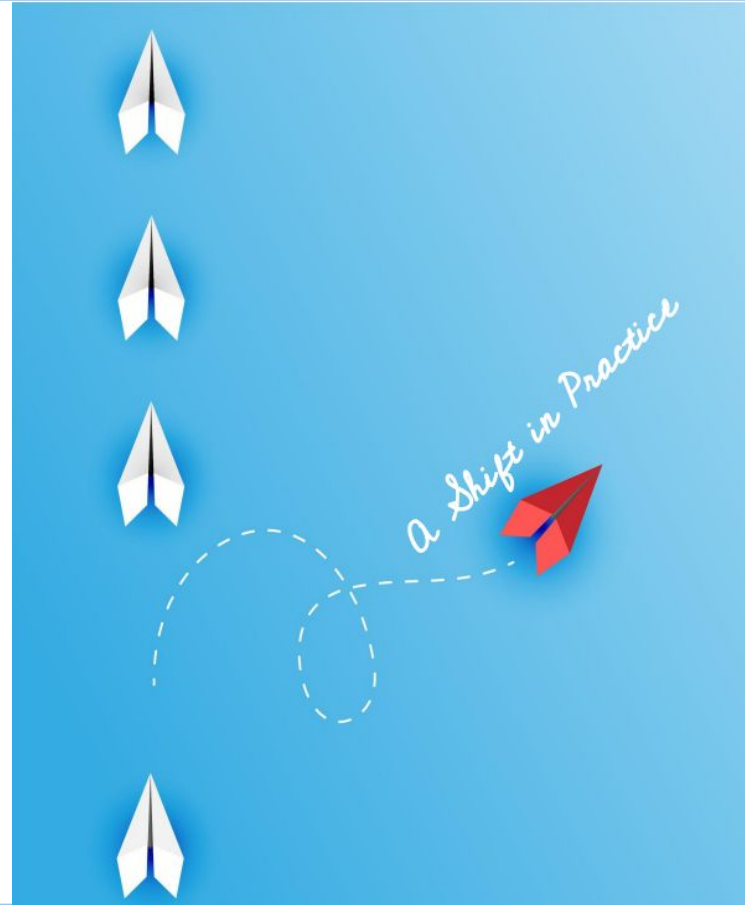
Questions to ask while children observe:
*What do you observe about the weather conditions?
How did you observe this?
What data are you recording about the weather conditions?*

Wright, 2021, p. 72-73.

An Invitation...

What is one thing you might:

- Start
- Stop
- Keep



Resources

The Simple View of Reading: Gough & Turner, 1986

Scarborough's Rope: Scarborough, 2001

The Active View of Reading: Duke & Cartwright, 2021

Active Reading Classrooms: Kelly, 2023

Shifting the Balance: Burkins & Yates, 2021

Vocabulary Development Across the Day: Wright, 2021

Resources

[Know the Facts about Reading - LD@school](#)

[The Simple View of Reading](#)

[Orthographic Mapping](#)



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