Byram Hills Principals’ Coffee Hour

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The SOR pulls from many disciplines...

- Speech language pathology / linguistics
- Neuroscience
- Psychology
- Special education
- Pediatrics
- Developmental / school psychology
- Reading research
The SOR is NOT

• an ideology or philosophy
• a fad, trend, new idea, or pendulum swing
• a political agenda
• a one-size-fits-all approach
• a program of instruction
• a single, specific component of instruction such as phonics
the science of reading

SOR

noun.

a comprehensive body of research that encompasses years of scientific knowledge, spans across many languages, and shares the contributions of experts from relevant disciplines such as education, special education, literacy, psychology, neurology, and more.
Cool Brain Facts

• Reading involves many parts of the brain

• The brain *changes* as we learn to read

• Brain scans of struggling readers show more scattered activity than those of strong readers

• Brain has *plasticity* through our lifetime
A Preschooler who Spends Two Hours x Day on Devices

Massive underdevelopment and disorganization of white matter
Stages of Literacy Development

- Research has identified particular learning traits and language/literacy behaviors that occur along a predictable developmental sequence (Nelson, 1996; Chall, 1995).
- Not all readers develop at the same rate.
- It is important for teachers and caregivers to have a general understanding of these stages in order to guide children along the developmental trajectory and in order to provide differentiated instruction as needed.
Emergent Stage Indicators
Birth — Mid-kindergarten

Language
- Contextualized & Decontextualized Language
- World Knowledge & Vocabulary
- Experiential Narratives

Phonological Awareness

Print
- Print Concepts
- Letter Names, Sounds, Form
- Pretend Reading & Writing
What is Phonological Awareness (PA)?

• Phonological awareness is the ability to hear, distinguish, and manipulate the sounds in words and sentences.
  • It includes individual sound units, rhymes, word duration, syllables, word units within a sentence.

• Phonemic awareness is the ability to focus on and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words.

• PA instruction is quick-paced and often looks like word play.

• Combining PA and letter work in Prek-Grade 1, can enhance both.

Stahl, 2022
PA Practice At Home

• NURSERY RHYMES
• Alliteration –tongue twisters and sound play/manipulation
• Invented spelling: Honoring your child’s efforts to stretch the word like a rubber band and make an approximation
• Honor the development from scribbling, random symbols, partial representations, full sound-letter representations (usually novice stage), accurate pattern representation (transitional stage)
• Interactive alphabet book reading

Stahl, 2022
Letter Practice at Home

• Make personal alphabet books.
• Make personal dictionaries for different topic categories of learning.
• Practice letter formation using the classroom letter standard formations.
• Yes- consistency in pencil holding, size, formation steps, and neatness do matter!! We want multiple brain pathways working to form letter knowledge associations.
• Use tactile materials for young children and those having difficulty in kindergarten.
Emergent Reading At Home and School

• Require bunny-hop finger-pointing every time the child is reading books through Level D/E.

• Emergent readers need to do accountable reading from a book diet containing:
  • Predictable books
  • Decodable books
  • Controlled, high frequency vocabulary books
  • Wordless picture books for narrative story development

Stahl, 2022
Novice Reader Indicators (Mid-K to Early Grade 2)

- Acquired the “alphabetic principle”
- Reading is text-bound
- Acquiring the ability to automatically recognize (.5 second) the most common words in the English language (about 300) (Hiebert, 2012).
- Require systematic, explicit instruction in blending and common single syllable letter patterns
- Apply comprehension strategies, often with prompting
- Ongoing development of conceptual vocabulary

Stahl, 2022
How To Teach and Practice Phonics Patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Activities/Student Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hear</strong></td>
<td>Phonological awareness activities and Picture Sorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Read</strong></td>
<td>Word Sorts (Closed and Open), Word Hunts, Word Lists (including nonsense words) Decodable Texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Write</strong></td>
<td>Spelling activities, Blind Sorts, Dictation Tasks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Automaticity</strong></td>
<td>Speed drills (clocks or competitive card games)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transfer</strong></td>
<td>Distributed Practice Games, R&amp;W Connected Text</td>
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Stahl, 2022
Novice readers need experience reading many different types of text in order to learn how to decode on the run while simultaneously self-monitoring that what they are reading makes sense. This orchestration is a heavy cognitive load for young children.
The Benefits of Read Alouds (www.readaloud.org)

- Early Literacy Skill Development
- Brain development
- Background knowledge & vocabulary
- Socioemotional Benefits (Bonding, empathy, love of reading)
- Improved Behavior & Focus
- Early signs of physiological benefits
Using Read Alouds to Build Oral Language

- Read aloud informational text
- Don’t shy away from repeated readings
- Use print-referencing during read alouds
- Think aloud as you read!
The Decline at Nine

Reading Aloud at Home:

52% Kids Ages 0-2
55% Kids Ages 3-5
34% Kids Ages 6-8
17% Kids Ages 9-11

The frequency of kids being read aloud to at home begins to drop after age 5, continues to decline after age 8, and again after age 11.

The Kids & Family Reading Report™: Fifth Edition

Results from a nationally representative survey of 2,550 parents and children including 506 parents of children ages 0-5; 1,020 parents of children ages 6-11; plus one child age 6-11 from the same household, conducted August 21, 2014 through September 18, 2014, and managed by YouGov. See the full methodology at scholastic.com/readingreport.
Home- School Connections

• Literacy-related field trips
• Only incentivize reading with reading-related rewards
• Read aloud to pets / stuffed animals
• Gift books & literacy-related gifts
• Schedule read alouds with family / friends
• Games, puzzles, joke books
Allow Children to Choose their Texts

BEGINNING GRAPHIC NOVELS
for kindergarteners - third grade
Track Your Family’s Reading
Create Inviting Reading Spots
Create A Family Book Club