

# Five Components of an Effective Reading Program



There are several factors that should be considered when researching reading programs for schools. The first consideration should be whether a program addresses the five key components of an effective reading program as identified by the National Reading Panel. This includes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Choosing the right [reading programs for schools](#) can be difficult, but by ensuring the inclusion of these five components, you will be off to a great start!

## Phonemic Awareness

This is the ability to recognize the sounds that letters make. The right reading intervention program will teach students how to sound out words based on the letters in them. Phonemic awareness is the most basic building block for literacy. Without understanding that letters make different sounds; it is impossible for a student to learn to read.

## Phonics

There is a strong correlation between phonics and phonemic awareness. The main distinction is that phonemic awareness focuses on auditory sound recognition whereas phonics is the transfer of this knowledge into decoding printed words. In addition to being able to recognize the sounds that letters make, phonics is the understanding that words are made by stringing these sounds together. It is the ability to sound out or decode words based on their individual letter sounds. When it comes to reading programs for schools, phonics and phonemic awareness are essential components.



## **Vocabulary**

This links closely to reading comprehension. When a student knows a wide range of words, they will be more likely to understand what each word in the passage means. If a student does not know the meaning of certain words or vocabulary within a sentence, they will struggle to comprehend what is being said. Strong vocabulary skills can help students better understand what the text is trying to communicate. Reading and repetition are both good ways to help students gain a strong vocabulary.

## **Fluency**

Fluency allows a reader to quickly see a word and understand what it means. When a reader is fluent, they do not need to spend time determining what each word means. Instead, the reader can quickly scan the entire passage and understand the message that it is trying to convey. The more that a reader practices, the more fluent they can become. Reading out loud can also help readers to gain fluency. Word recognition and a strong vocabulary help support fluency, making these skills key components of any good [reading intervention program](#).

## **Comprehension**

It is one thing to read a passage and another to comprehend it. The best reading programs for schools will also teach students how to immerse themselves in the text that they are reading. When a student is able to link new information with previously read information, that student is comprehending the work well. This can help a student to deepen their overall understanding of a topic.

## **Choose the Right Reading Intervention Program**

You can see that it is very important to have a good quality reading program that encompasses these five key components. Here at Essential Skills, we offer a wide variety of reading programs for schools. You can rest assured that our research-based reading programs cover each of these important elements in depth. Contact us today to learn how we can help your students achieve a higher level of reading success.

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