

Essential Skills for Readers in Primary

Oral Language

Phonology

- see phonological awareness section

Syntax

- speaking in complete sentences
- using correct word order
- using connecting words
- using descriptive words to expand sentences
- using pronouns

Morphology

- hearing and saying a root word with a prefix or suffix
- using plurals, possessives, different verb tenses, conjunctions

Vocabulary

- See vocabulary section

Discourse

- how to tell a story
- using detail when sharing experiences
- how to ask and respond to questions

Pragmatics

- adapting language for a range of purposes and audiences
- listening to infer meaning
- expressing thoughts and feelings
- responding to and giving simple directions or instructions

Phonological Awareness

Rhyme

- generating rhyming words
- identifying when spoken words rhyme and when they do not rhyme

Syllable

- blending spoken syllables together to form 2 or 3 syllable words
- identifying syllables in a word
- manipulating syllables in a word
- substituting a syllable in a word

Onset and Rime

- blending onsets and rimes
- manipulating and substituting onsets and rimes

Phoneme

- identifying words with the same beginning and ending phonemes
- segmenting the sounds in a word with three sounds: CVC
- blending two or three phonemes to make a word
- deleting, adding, and substituting beginning and end sounds in words

Phonics

Alphabetic Knowledge

- connecting most consonant sounds with the letters they represent
- connecting a short and long vowel sound with the letter it represents
- recognizing that all letters are either consonants or vowels
- recognizing the direct relationship between letters (consonants, vowels), letter combinations (blends, digraphs) and sounds

Application of Alphabetic Knowledge

- knowing and using letter-sound correspondences for consonants and vowels to decode VC, CVC words in isolation and in connected text
- blending consonants and vowels in isolation and in connected text
- blending more complex letter combinations and digraphs seen in familiar texts

Word Recognition

- Identifying words and word parts
- identifying high frequency words that may have irregular spellings

Vocabulary

Vocabulary Development

- using and understanding words that occur frequently in everyday conversations
- new words that are linked to a specific genre or content area
- vocabulary words by correct function and category
- synonyms for some vocabulary
- words to describe concepts: time markers, size, colour
- using new vocabulary to express thoughts
- broad categories of words (e.g., food, animals, clothing)
- words based on similar functions, attributes, or locations

Reading Fluency

Phrasing

- grouping familiar 2 or 3 words into meaningful phrases

Expression

- changing voice to show feeling
- responding to punctuation

Adjusting Pace

- sustaining momentum through an entire text
- using bold print to adjust tone
- slowing down to attend to unknown words and punctuation

Word and Phoneme Recognition

- high frequency words with automaticity such as: I, a, am, at, is, my, the, and, he, she, like, come, look
- reading at least 10 words in isolation and in continuous text
- reading phonograms (rime units, digraphs, blends, etc) with speed and accuracy

Comprehension

Engagement with Text

- selecting a variety of texts as sources of interest, enjoyment, and information
- selecting fiction and information texts with a variety of text features
- selecting texts reflective of diverse experiences and perspectives to grow background knowledge
- growing background and vocabulary knowledge about concepts and topics

Word Recognition

- See Phonics and Word Recognition section

Print Concepts and Text Features

- directionality
- one-to-one word matching
- distinguishing between letters, words, and sentences
- attending to punctuation

Strategic Processing of Text

- using comprehension strategies to build and monitor understanding
- searching for and using information
- self-monitoring and self-correcting
- knowing and using letter-sound correspondences to solve unknown words
- building knowledge and vocabulary related to a variety of concepts
- inferring the meaning of new vocabulary

Responding to Text

- making connections to new information
- retelling the story visually and/or orally
- engaging in conversation about their understanding of a story
- summarizing a story
- giving personal opinions about a text
- asking questions about a text