

The Science of Reading (SOR)

Information For Parents

What is the Science of Reading?

The Reading League (2022) defines the **science of reading** as “a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically-based research about reading and issues related to reading and writing.

This research has been conducted over the past five decades across the world, and it is derived from thousands of studies conducted in multiple languages. The science of reading has culminated in a preponderance of evidence to inform how proficient reading and writing develop; why some have difficulty; and how we can most effectively assess and teach and, therefore, improve student outcomes through prevention of and intervention for reading difficulties.”

The Science of Reading IS

A body of scientifically-based research

Word recognition and language comprehension skills

Good for all students

It IS NOT

A curriculum

Only phonics

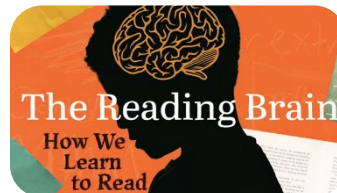
A one-size fits all approach

(The Reading League [TRL], 2022)

Why is the Science of Reading Important?

The science of reading research has shown that:

- ***Reading is not a natural process***
- ***The brain must be trained to read***
- ***Learning to read changes brain processing***
- ***Letter-sound instruction is essential***



Please watch this short video **The Reading Brain | How We Learn to Read** to learn more.

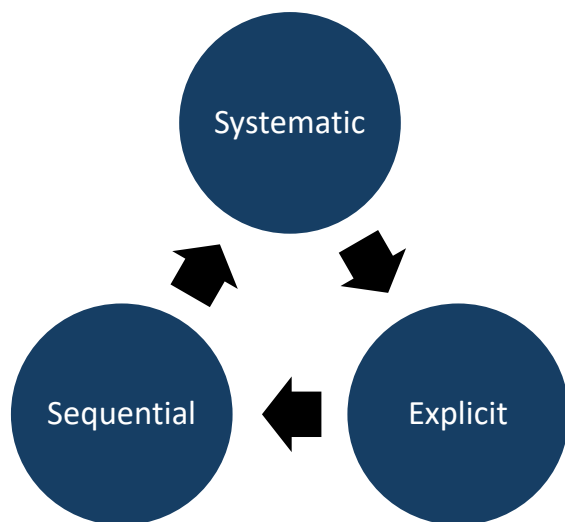
(Hill Learning Center, 2022)

What Does the Science of Reading Look Like at School?

Literacy Instruction During the School Day:

- A 90-minute literacy block (at a minimum)
- Both whole group and small group instruction
- Explicit instruction with corrective feedback
- Students working with a variety of texts
- Both reading AND writing opportunities are provided
- With additional time for intervention when needed
- Concepts from literacy instruction are reinforced throughout the day across content areas, like math or science, and possibly by multiple educators

	K	1	2	3	4+
Phonological and Phonemic Awareness	[Progressive blue shading from K to 4+]				
Phonics	Early	[Progressive blue shading from 1 to 3]			Advanced
Reading Fluency		[Progressive blue shading from 1 to 4+]			
Vocabulary	[Teal shading from K to 4+]				
Comprehension	Listening	[Progressive teal shading from 1 to 3]			Reading



Systematic: Lessons are taught in a structured, predictable format, with many opportunities for feedback and cumulative practice.

Explicit: Important concepts and skills are taught very clearly and directly by the teacher. Children are not expected to infer these concepts and skills just from exposure alone.

Sequential: Lessons are taught in a logical order, from simple to more complex. Skills build on each other over time.

(IDA, 2020)

How Can You Support Reading at Home?

- **Ask questions** of your child's teacher to understand your child's strengths and challenges with learning to read.
- **Read with your child** every day.
- **Have conversations** together to:
 - Expand your child's vocabulary.
 - Develop your child's background knowledge.
- **Support your child with homework.**



Additional Resources

Please visit the [Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\) Parent Resource website](#) for more information about the Colorado READ Act, READ Plans, and the Science of Reading.



References

Hill Learning Center. (2022, September 22). The reading brain: how we learn to read [Video]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2HHrKpjlYM>

International Dyslexia Association. (2020). *Structured literacy: Effective instruction for students with dyslexia and related reading difficulties*. <https://dyslexiaida.org/effective-reading-instruction/>

The Reading League. (2022). *Science of Reading: Defining guide* (2nd ed.). The Reading League.