

FIVE COMPONENTS OF READING

- Alphabetic Principle: (the written word) Seeing relationships between sounds, written letters and groups of letters. Recognizing and naming each letter of the alphabet and their sounds. For example, children may look at a picture (such as a dog) next to a word (“DOG”). By saying the word out loud, they hear its first sound. Pointing to the letter that represents that sound (“D”) helps them connect the letter to its sound. Knowing the difference between letters and words.
- Phonemic Awareness: (the spoken word) Hearing and using the sounds that makes up spoken words. Most spoken words are made of combining 2 or more small speech sounds of letters in the alphabet to make a new sound that is called a word. (Example: use the three sounds: /c/ and /a/ and /t/ to form the new sound: /cat/).
- Fluency: Recognizing and reading words out loud easily. Children with this skill can focus on what a whole sentence or story means- instead of stopping to figure out what each word means. They can read out-loud easily and with expression. They don't miss, add, substitute or reverse words. The more children practice reading, the more fluency they can develop.
- Vocabulary Development: Learning new words. Talking with adults, hearing and reading many different types of written material such as fiction (make believe), nonfiction (fact) and poetry, helps to build vocabulary. Using new words in their own speech or writing helps children build a larger vocabulary.
- Text Comprehension: Learning ways to understand, remember and share what they've read. Children can practice this skill by:
 - Asking themselves questions, to see if they understand what they are reading. For example, “Why was Alex sad?”
 - Trying to predict what will happen in a story
 - Making mental pictures of an event or character
 - Explaining a hard sentence using their own words
 - Drawing a chart or diagram to connect related ideas
- Learn with Rhythm and Rhymes
 - Children respond to visual (seeing), auditory (hearing), tactile (touch) and kinesthetic (physical movement) activities involving music, songs, rhythm, rhyming poems and body movement.
 - During these activities, phonic, context and content skills can be taught.