Components of Comprehensive Literacy Instruction

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Oral Language at the Core
Oral Language, sometimes called spoken language, includes speaking and listening—the ways that humans use language to communicate with one another.

Phoneme Awareness
Phoneme awareness is an awareness of and the ability to manipulate the individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words.

Phonics
Phonics is the study and use of sound/spelling correspondences and syllable patterns to help students read written words.

Spelling
Spelling, also referred to as encoding, is reciprocal to decoding. In order to spell a word, we must first hear the individual sounds, and then write the letter(s) that represent the sounds. When spelling, we go from speech to print. When reading, we go from print to speech.

Syntax
Syntax refers to the way words are put together to form phrases, clauses, or sentences.

Vocabulary
Vocabulary refers to the body of words and their meanings that students must understand to comprehend text.

Morphology
Morphology is the study of meaningful units of language and how they are combined in forming words.

Text Comprehension
Text comprehension, the ability to make meaning, is the ultimate goal of reading. It requires specific skills and strategies, vocabulary, background knowledge, and verbal reasoning skills.

Written Expression
Written expression refers to a highly complex, cognitive, self-directed process. Components of the process include planning, drafting, sharing, revising, editing, evaluating, and publishing.

Fluency
The Literacy How Reading Wheel does not include fluency as a separate component; instead, the accuracy and automaticity dimension of fluency is regarded as a critical ingredient for each of the other reading components.