Early Literacy Policy

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What is “The Science of Reading”?

• “The science of reading” is a term for a body of findings from research about reading processes and reading instruction.

• These findings include, but are absolutely not limited to, phonemic awareness, phonics, and word-reading development.
Phonics is critically important.

And there are many contributors to reading beyond phonics.
The Active View of Reading

Duke & Cartwright, 2021

effect sizes from
Burns, Duke, & Cartwright, 2023

WORD RECOGNITION
- Phonological awareness (syllables, phonemes, etc.)
- Alphabetic principle
- Phonics knowledge
- Decoding skills
- Recognition of words at sight

BRIDGING PROCESSES
- Print concepts
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary knowledge
- Morphological awareness
- Graphophonological-semantic cognitive flexibility (letter-sound-meaning flexibility)

LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION
- Cultural and other content knowledge
- Reading-specific background knowledge (genre, text features, etc.)
- Verbal reasoning (inference, metaphor, etc.)
- Language structure (syntax, semantics, etc.)
- Theory of mind

ACTIVE SELF REGULATION
- Motivation and engagement
- Executive function skills
- Strategy use (word recognition strategies, comprehension strategies, vocabulary strategies, etc.)

Effect Size: 0.44
Effect Size: 0.46
Effect Size: 0.62
Effect Size: 0.70
What are the most effective ways to improve early literacy long term?

1. Literacy coaching for educators
2. Home-based & school-based summer programs
3. High-dosage tutoring for students

All of these strategies must be research-aligned and culturally responsive.
Research-aligned Literacy Coaching:

This is the most research supported investment.

Literacy coaches help teachers improve core classroom instruction; they work directly with teachers in the classroom.
Research-aligned Literacy Coaching for Multilingual Learners

Professional learning and coaching focused on cultural wealth, high-impact instructional strategies, and a framework for collaboration show improved outcomes for multilingual learners’ language and literacy skills within one school year.
Research-aligned Summer Programs

- Home-based programs
- School-based programs
Even when growth during the school year is the same for everyone . . .

(Atteberry & McEachain, 2020; https://journals.sagepub.com/stoken/default+domain/GBRTK2UCCZCUMP8IB6RN/full)
Home-Based Summer Reading Programs

• Books kids take home that are culturally sustaining and of high interest.
• Make the practice of reading part of the daily routine.
• Engage families and loved ones with their children with books and stories.
School-Based Summer Reading Programs

• Positively impacts reading comprehension.
• Aligned with instruction delivered during the school year.
• Delivered in a small group settings and lasts 2-4 weeks.
Research-aligned Tutoring

• High-dosage tutoring:
  • 1:1 or small groups
  • Multiple times each week
  • Over multiple weeks

• Uses high-quality instructional strategies and materials that are aligned with classroom content.

• Supports data use to tailor to individual students.
Research has specifically shown these strategies work for BIPOC students, multilingual learners, and students who have dyslexia.
Three Take Aways

1. The more aligned to research, the greater the likelihood of impact.

2. Literacy coaching, summer reading programs, and high-dosage tutoring are all well supported in research.

3. The way children learn to read is known, now we need a focused policy investment to support it across Oregon.
Together, we can change the trajectory of children’s lives.
Resource Page

• Toward a System of Evidence for All: Current Practices and Future Opportunities in 37 Randomized Trials
• The Effect of Teacher Coaching on Instruction and Achievement: A Meta-Analysis of the Causal Evidence
• Improving Young English Learners’ Language and Literacy Skills Through Teacher Professional Development: A Randomized Controlled Trial
• The effects of summer reading on low-income children’s literacy achievement from kindergarten to grade 8: A meta-analysis of classroom and home interventions
• Accelerate Student Learning with High-Dosage Tutoring