

Indiana Department of Education K-2 Literacy Tool Kit – The Components of Reading

The National Reading Panel issued a report in 2000 that identified key skills and methods central to reading achievement. The five areas of reading instruction identified by the National Reading Panel include: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension, which are outlined below.

Component	Definition	How You Can Help (Strategies are appropriate for Grades K, 1, and 2 unless otherwise noted)
Phonemic Awareness	The knowledge of the smallest unit of speech (the phoneme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the sounds letters make. (K, 1)
Phonics	How letters are related to the sounds they represent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help your child learn the letters and sounds of the alphabet. (K, 1) • Talk with your child about words that do not follow the usual letter-sound rules.
Fluency	The ability to read text quickly, accurately, and with appropriate expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud a story to your child so he or she knows how fluent reading sounds.
Vocabulary	The knowledge of words and their meanings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage your child in conversation each day. • Read to or with your child each day; pause to discuss new or interesting words.
Comprehension	The understanding of what text means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your child questions about what he or she is reading or has read.