



The Kindergarten Chronicles

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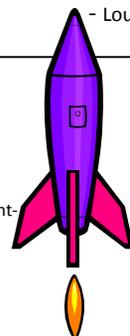


www.corestandards.org



"Teaching reading is
rocket science."

- Louisa Moats



Flying Into the Reading Standards: Foundational Skills

In this month's edition of *The Kindergarten Chronicles*, links to helpful Reading Standards: Foundational Skills websites and articles are provided to make your CCSS lesson planning easier. These standards are directed toward fostering students' understanding and working knowledge of concepts of print, the alphabetic principle, and other basic conventions of the English writing system. These foundational skills are not an end in and of themselves; rather, they are necessary and important components of an effective, comprehensive reading program designed to develop proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend texts across a range of types and disciplines. Instruction should be differentiated: good readers will need much less practice with these concepts than struggling readers will. The point is to teach students what they need to learn and not what they already know—to discern when particular children or activities warrant more or less attention.

Print Concepts

RF.K.1 Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.

- Concept of Word Games -This article describes several activities that teachers can use to teach concepts of print plus two links to additional information. (Source: The Reading Rockets Website, WETA)
- Tap Stack Literacy Center -This activity helps students gain speed and accuracy in letter recognition. Students match upper and lowercase alphabet letters. (Source: The Florida Center for Reading Research)
- Letter Recognition and Sound Identification -Students apply their knowledge of letters and letter sounds as they identify pictures in an illustrated alphabet book. Students practice their skills by playing several online alphabet games. (Source: ReadWriteThink)

Phonological Awareness

RF.K.2 Demonstrates understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).

- The Phonological Awareness Website - This website provides general information on phonological awareness. The site includes activities, ideas, and some materials and suggestions for implementation of activities as well as links to other resources. (Source: Andreassen & Smith, The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, The University of Northern Iowa)
- Classroom Strategies - Here is an extensive library that provides teachers with effective, research-based classroom strategies to help build and strengthen literacy skills in the following areas: print awareness, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing. (Source: The Reading Rockets website, WETA)
- Generating Rhymes Lesson Plan - As students manipulate words and sounds to create simple rhymes, they become aware of word and letter patterns that will help them develop decoding skills. In this lesson, students become familiar with 12 rhyming pairs of one-syllable words. (Source: ReadWriteThink website, International Reading Association)

Phonics and Word Recognition

RF.K.3 Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

- Gingerbread Phonics -This lesson uses familiar words from *The Gingerbread Man* to help early readers learn letter-sound correspondence. Students then use the newly learned words in a story of their own.
- Teaching Short-Vowel Discrimination using Dr. Seuss Rhymes - This lesson teaches short vowel discrimination using Dr. Seuss rhymes. Students will discover patterns in words, sort words based on their vowel patterns, and apply their knowledge in reading and writing activities.
- Student of the Day - Students learn to identify letters and words by exploring one another's names and other words. Each student gets to be "Student of the Day," and the class explores his or her name and life. Students will learn which letters are in their classmate's name, as well as the words for their friend's hobbies and favorite things.

Fluency

RF.K.4 Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

- Shared Poetry Reading - Students work on fluency through repeated readings and one-to-one matching of print. It also focuses on an awareness of rhyme. (Source: Read Write Think website, International Reading Association, NCTE)
- Improving Fluency Lesson - In this lesson, the repetition, rhythm, and rhyme of Bill Martin's works provide opportunities for students to hear fluent reading modeled before participating in the readings through literary performance. (Source: ReadWriteThink Website)
- Fluency: Instructional Guidelines and Student Activities - This resource provides guidelines and activities to help improve fluency. It includes student-adult reading, choral reading, tape-assisted reading, partner reading and reader's theater. (Source: The Reading Rockets Website, WETA)