



Foundational Reading Skills

Course Syllabus

Course Description

We know teaching children to read is critical to academic success, but what are the building blocks to teaching reading? In this course, teachers will develop in-depth understandings of the building blocks of reading and explore strategies for teaching these building blocks. Topics to be included include phonemic/phonological awareness, phonics, sight words, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Also, included is a bonus module on writing as it's an important next step and important to overall literacy.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing essential building blocks of reading—including print awareness, phonemic/phonological awareness, phonics, sight words, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension—while also exploring effective teaching strategies for each area, plus a bonus module on writing to support overall literacy development.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

TO*1: Describe the role of print awareness in early literacy and explain multiple instructional strategies to promote it in a classroom setting.

TO2: Explain the difference between phonemic and phonological awareness and demonstrate evidence-based activities that support their development.

TO3: Analyze the components of effective phonics instruction and design a lesson plan incorporating key phonics strategies.

TO4: Explain the role of sight words in reading development and select appropriate methods to teach and assess high-frequency words.

TO5: Define reading fluency and evaluate student performance using rate, accuracy, and expression; propose strategies to improve each area.

TO6: Identify the types of vocabulary knowledge and plan classroom activities that explicitly build students' expressive and receptive vocabulary.

TO7: Describe the key processes involved in reading comprehension and apply instructional strategies to improve students' understanding of texts.



TO8: Analyze the connection between reading and writing instruction, and create an integrated lesson that uses writing to reinforce reading comprehension skills.

*(TO 1) stands for Training Outcome 1. Each module in this course focuses on one of the Training Outcomes.

Modules

- Module 1: Print Awareness, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Phonemic Awareness, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Phonics, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Sight Words, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Fluency, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Vocabulary, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Comprehension, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Writing, Quiz 8

Grading:

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.