



Maryland's Approach to K-3 Literacy Instruction

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future emphasizes grade-level reading skills, particularly as students progress through grades K-3. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the State Board's Strategic Plan specifically calls for evidence-based effective reading instructional practices grounded in the Science of Reading. Therefore MSDE and the Office of Teaching Learning recommend that all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) utilize a structured literacy approach to instruction.



Science of Reading

Science of Reading is a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically-based research about reading and issues related to reading and writing. This research has been conducted over the last five decades across the world, and it is derived from thousands of studies conducted in multiple languages. The science of reading has culminated in a preponderance of evidence to inform how proficient reading and writing develop; why some have difficulty; and how we can most effectively assess, teach, and improve student outcomes through prevention of and intervention for reading difficulties. (Reading League, 2021)

Structured Literacy Instruction

Application of the Science of Reading

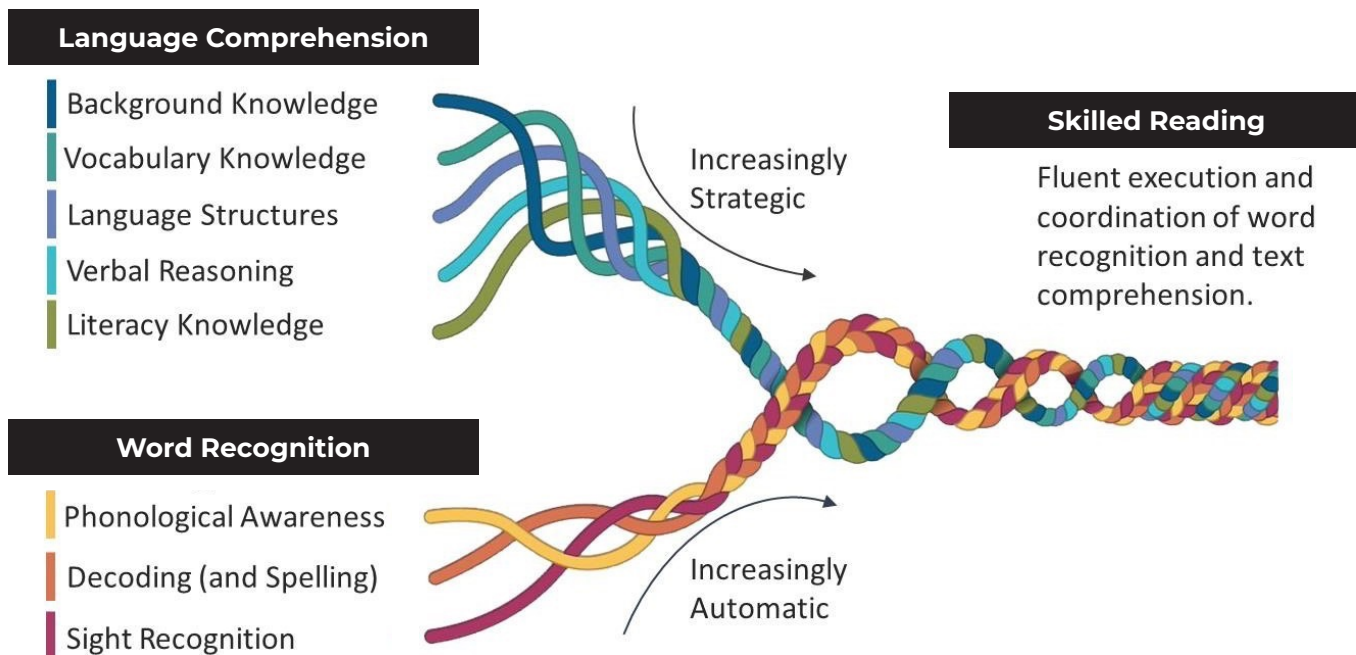
Structured Literacy is representative of reading instruction that applies the Science of Reading to classroom practice. Structured Literacy teaches all the components that evidence has found to be foremost in ensuring reading success.

Structured Literacy is not just about phonics; it includes much, much more. [The Simple View of Reading](#) (Gough and Tumber, 1986) and Scarborough's Rope Model (Scarborough, 2001) serve as frameworks for understanding and identifying Structured Literacy.

Simple View of Reading



Scarborough's Reading Rope Model



Scarborough, H. 2001. Connecting early language and literacy to later reading (dis)abilities: Evidence, theory, and practice. Pp. 97-110 in S. B. Neuman & D. K. Dickinson (Eds.) *Handbook of Early Literacy*. NY: Guilford Press.

Features of Effective Literacy Instruction

Effective, high-quality instruction is...



Systematic



Inclusive of a carefully planned scope and sequence



Explicit



Scaffolded



Differentiated

Resources

The Reading League:
[Science of Reading Defining Guide](#)

Barksdale Reading Institute:
[Reading Universe](#)

REL-Southeast:
[Emergent Literacy PLC Guide](#)

Adapted from the Mississippi Department of Education: [Structured Literacy Model](#)