

## Florida Reading First Guidance to LEA's: Sections B and C

### Components of Effective Reading Programs

#### **B-1. What are the essential components of reading instruction?**

Scientifically based reading research has identified five essential components of effective reading instruction. Explicit and systematic instruction must be provided in these five areas:

1. Phonemic Awareness – The ability to hear, identify and manipulate the individual sounds –phonemes – in spoken words. Phonemic awareness is the understanding that the sounds of spoken language work together to make words.
2. Phonics – The understanding that there is a predictable relationship between phonemes – the sounds of spoken language – and graphemes – the letters and spellings that represent those sounds in written language. Readers use these relationships to recognize familiar words accurately and automatically and to decode unfamiliar words.
3. Vocabulary Development – Development of stored information about the meanings and pronunciation of words necessary for communication. There are four types of vocabulary:
  - Listening vocabulary – the words needed to understand what is heard
  - Speaking vocabulary – the words used when speaking
  - Reading vocabulary – the words needed to understand what is read
  - Writing vocabulary – the words used in writing
4. Reading fluency, including oral reading skills – Fluency is the ability to read text accurately and quickly. It provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. Fluent readers recognize words and comprehend at the same time.
5. Reading comprehension strategies – Strategies for understanding, remembering, and communicating with others about what has been read. Comprehension strategies are sets of steps that purposeful, active readers use to make sense of text.

#### **B-2. What is scientifically based reading research?**

Scientifically based reading research is research that applies rigorous, systematic and objective procedures to obtain valid knowledge relevant to reading development, reading instruction, and reading difficulties. This includes research that:

1. Employs systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment;
2. Involves rigorous data analyses that are adequate to test the stated hypotheses and justify the general conclusions drawn;