

Readers continue to grow in their ability to make sense of an increasing variety of texts on an increasing variety of topics throughout their lives as they learn more spoken and written language, acquire more knowledge on an ever-expanding variety of topics, and have more and more life experiences.

Effective Reading Instruction

Effective reading instruction helps learners make sense of written language.²¹ It builds on what learners know at any given time to help them learn more. Effective instruction is grounded in a professional knowledge of how we read and how we learn to read. It is best provided by knowledgeable, caring teachers who organize instruction to meet the varying needs of all their students.²²

Teachers provide effective reading instruction when they:

- Expect all students to achieve.²³
- Know their students as individuals, including their interests, their attitudes about reading, and their school, home, and community experiences.
- Carefully observe each student's reading in multiple contexts in order to provide appropriate instruction and monitor progress.
- Create a risk-free environment that supports social interaction, open discussion of ideas, and multiple perspectives.
- Teach students about reading within the context of authentic reading using texts with authentic language.
- Read to students daily using a variety of text types, including various types of fiction and non fiction and multicultural literature, on a variety of topics to build their students' familiarity with written language and their background knowledge on a variety of topics.
- Use a variety of instructional groupings, including whole group, small group and individual instruction, to provide multiple learning experiences.²⁴
- Use multiple instructional methods such as shared reading²⁵, guided reading, and literature discussion circles, as appropriate for their students.
- Focus on the ideas represented by written language rather than the words on the page.²⁶
- Build background knowledge of topics and language that enables students to understand what they read.²⁷
- Teach before-, during-, and after-reading strategies for constructing meaning of written language, including demonstrations and think alouds.
- Encourage students to use effective reading strategies such as self-monitoring for meaning and self-correcting when meaning breaks down.²⁸
- Provide specific feedback to students to support their reading development.
- Provide opportunities for inquiry and language study, including vocabulary, word and text