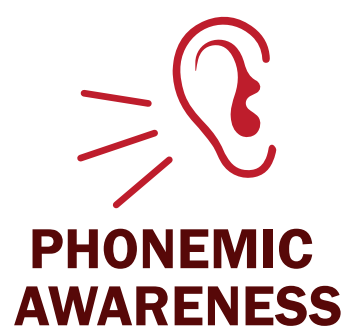


# 5

## Pillars of Early Literacy

The National Reading Panel identified five key concepts at the core of every effective reading instruction program: **Phonemic Awareness**, **Phonics**, **Fluency**, **Vocabulary**, and **Comprehension**.

Since the panel's report was released in 2000, these concepts have become known as the "five pillars" of early literacy and reading instruction.



PHONEMIC AWARENESS



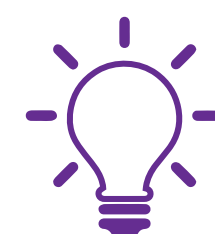
PHONICS



FLUENCY



VOCABULARY



COMPREHENSION

### #1 PHONEMIC AWARENESS

**Phonemic awareness is the ability to identify the different sounds that make up speech.**

Word games, rhymes, and tongue twisters can help children identify the individual sounds in words and begin to match the sounds to letters of the alphabet. So, keep talking!



### #2 PHONICS

**Phonics helps kids match sounds to letters or letter groups.**

Phonics is the key to decoding new words. Breaking words down into sounds and syllables allows young readers to connect words on paper with the words they hear and speak every day. Remember, Sam-I-Am did not like green eggs and ham!



### #3 FLUENCY

**Fluency is the ability to read accurately and quickly.**

Fluency is achieved when the reader can concentrate on the meaning of the text, not the individual words. Guided practice helps children learn to read fast enough to keep up with their brains!



### #4 VOCABULARY

**Vocabulary is the key to knowing more about everything.**

Kids absorb language like sponges, learning new words every day. Help expand their vocabulary by talking to them, reading aloud, and even singing with them. Use all the words!



### #5 COMPREHENSION

**Comprehension happens when the words become ideas.**

Once a child is reading fluently with a strong vocabulary, they can read for understanding. Comprehension is that "Oh! I get it now!" moment, repeated. Help with comprehension by asking questions about what they are reading.

