



Phonics Curriculum Proposal

May 16, 2023

Importance of Phonics Instruction

Research shows that there are five important components to teach in early literacy instruction to help students become successful readers.

- **Phonological awareness:** Teach students to recognize and manipulate the sounds within words.
- **Phonics and word recognition:** Teach letter sounds and sound-spelling patterns explicitly and systematically.
- **Fluency:** Include frequent chances for students to read and re-read orally from connected text—sentences, paragraphs, and passages.
- **Vocabulary and oral language comprehension:** Include high-quality, language-rich interactions in instruction. Teach students to understand both academic and inferential language.
- **Text comprehension:** Discuss texts, including their organizational structures

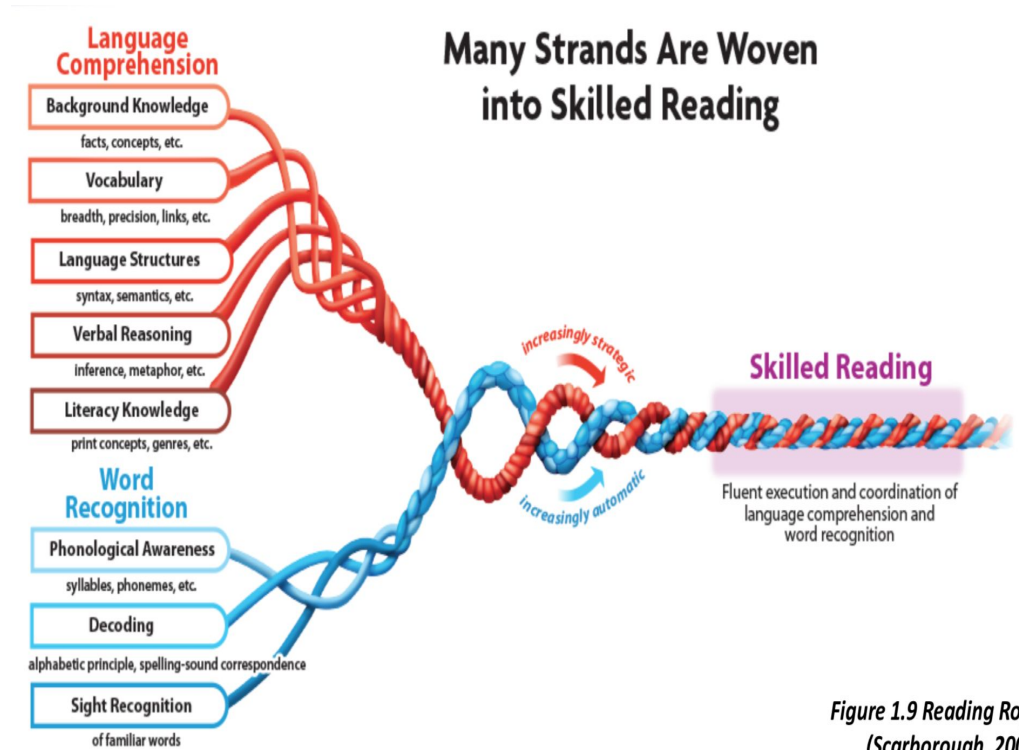


Figure 1.9 Reading Rope
(Scarborough, 2001)

Rancho Santa Fe's Current ELA Program

- Lucy Calkins' Units of Study for both Reading and Writing
 - Units alternate between fiction and non-fiction
 - Expose students to a variety of genres - including Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Articles, Memoirs, Research Reports, etc.
 - Reading units have a big emphasis on building strong comprehension and inferential skills
 - Increase students' vocabulary, understanding of language structure, and verbal reasoning skills.
 - Program lacks a focus on word recognition and foundational reading skills.
- Over the past several years, we've seen more students present with decoding difficulties, and they are too heavily reliant on context clues.
- Since returning from Covid, teachers have been provided with significant professional development in foundational reading skills and have been using different phonics instruction within their classrooms to meet their students' needs.
- We've seen significant growth in some of these areas, but feel we need a more comprehensive and consistent program for all K-3 students that will provide a clear scope and sequence for each grade level, in addition to resources for students and parents.

Process for Selecting Curriculum

- Over the last two years, we've looked at a variety of phonics program that would supplement our current reading and writing curriculum
- Some of the components we wanted in a program were:
 - Clear scope and sequence K-2 and order in which to teach skills
 - Whole class instruction
 - Daily practice materials for students
 - Home component
 - Decodable texts
 - Teacher accessibility
- We looked at three programs (Foundations, University of Florida Literacy Institute, and From Phonics to Reading)
- Teachers piloted various lessons in small groups and/or whole class
- All K-2 teachers met and unanimously agreed that From Phonics to Reading had all of the components and would best fit our students' needs.

Program Components

- The author, Wiley Bevins, is a highly credible author and this program aligns with the Science of Reading research.
- It follows a systematic scope and sequence designed to promote early reading and writing skills.
- Addresses the grade level common core standards in Foundational Skills
- Incorporates researched-based phonics instruction with lessons that embody the Seven Characteristics of Strong Phonics Instruction (readiness skills, sensible scope and sequence, blending, dictation, word awareness, high frequency words, and reading connected text).
- Contains embedded review and repetition cycle for mastery.
- Thirty weeks of instruction (30 minutes daily), homework suggestions, parent letters, and class activities.
- Includes placement tests and assessments.
- Provides teachers with interactive instructional resources for activities.

Cost

Year	Total Cost	Components Included
2023-2024	\$5,685.67 *Teachers would like professional development on implementation	Teacher manuals for all K-3 teachers Workbooks for all K-3
Yearly Cost after initial purchase	\$4,971.81	Workbooks for all K-3 students *Will need to be replaced yearly*