



Wyoming Primary Schools

Elm • Hilltop • Vermont

December 6, 2024

Dear WPS Families,

For the next few weeks, I will highlight some of the instructional approaches we use at Wyoming Primary Schools to provide all students with the building blocks needed for the future. This week, I will share information about a key component of our literacy instructional practices in grades K-2, Heggerty.

Heggerty Phonemic Awareness is a structured and systematic program designed to strengthen students' foundational literacy skills by focusing on phonemic awareness—the ability to recognize and manipulate sounds in spoken words. Incorporating Heggerty into core literacy instruction at Wyoming Primary Schools provides several important benefits:

1. Stronger Phonemic Awareness Skills:

- **Building Blocks of Reading:** Phonemic awareness is a critical precursor to reading success. By focusing on skills such as segmenting, blending, and manipulating sounds, Heggerty ensures that students develop a strong phonemic foundation, which is essential for decoding words and understanding the alphabetic principle.

2. Enhanced Reading Proficiency:

- **Improved Decoding and Word Recognition:** Heggerty Phonemic Awareness helps students become proficient in decoding, which leads to better word recognition and reading fluency. As students become more skilled at recognizing and processing sounds, they can more easily read and understand text, leading to improved overall reading proficiency.

3. Early Intervention for Struggling Readers:

- **Closing Literacy Gaps:** The program is particularly beneficial for students who struggle with reading. By providing daily, explicit instruction in phonemic awareness, Heggerty helps close literacy gaps early on, preventing reading difficulties from becoming more pronounced as students progress through the grades.

4. Consistent and Systematic Instruction:

- **Daily Routines:** Heggerty lessons are designed to be short, daily sessions that fit easily into existing literacy blocks. The consistent, systematic approach ensures that all students receive regular practice, reinforcing their phonemic awareness skills over time.

5. Support for Diverse Learners:

- **Inclusive Instruction:** Heggerty's structured approach is accessible to all students, including English language learners (ELLs) and students with learning differences. The clear, repetitive nature of the activities makes it easier for diverse learners to grasp and retain phonemic concepts, leading to greater literacy gains across the student population.

6. Easy Integration with Other Literacy Programs:

- **Complementing Core Instruction:** Heggerty Phonemic Awareness can be easily integrated with other literacy programs, such as phonics and reading comprehension instruction. This complementary approach ensures that phonemic awareness is reinforced alongside other critical literacy skills, creating a well-rounded and comprehensive literacy curriculum.

7. Professional Development and Teacher Support:

- **Effective Implementation:** Heggerty provides teachers with clear, easy-to-follow lesson plans and resources, making it straightforward to implement in the classroom. Additionally, professional development opportunities are available to help teachers effectively deliver phonemic awareness instruction, ensuring that students receive high-quality, research-based literacy education.

8. Positive Impact on Spelling and Writing:

- **Improved Literacy Skills:** As students' phonemic awareness improves, they also become better at spelling and writing. Understanding how sounds correspond to letters and word patterns helps students apply this knowledge when spelling words and composing written texts, leading to stronger overall literacy skills.

Incorporating Heggerty Phonemic Awareness into core literacy instruction at Wyoming Primary Schools provides students with the foundational skills they need to become successful readers and writers. By offering consistent, systematic, and explicit instruction in phonemic awareness, the program supports all learners on the path to becoming confident, capable readers.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Dr. Gina Kirchner

Principal, Wyoming Primary Schools

Counselor Corner

During the past week the Cowboy TV lessons focused on sustained attention, which is the ability to stay focused over time even when the task is challenging, boring, and/or tiring. Sustained attention helps us to finish tasks and accomplish goals. You can help your child develop sustained attention by encouraging him/her to set and work toward small goals. Then, acknowledge your child's accomplishment and attribute it to his/her effort and sustained attention. Encourage your child to set increasingly more complex goals to lengthen his/her attention span and build persistence.

Holiday Spirit Week

We're excited to invite all students to join us in celebrating Holiday Spirit Week during the week of December 16th! Each day will have a fun, festive theme to bring some extra joy and cheer as we head into winter break. Participation is completely optional—this is simply a chance to add a little extra fun to our final week of school in 2024. Please see the schedule below for details.

Upcoming Dates

- **Winter Parties** - Friday, December 20
 - Half-Day Kindergarten Party - 10:30-11:15
 - Full-Day Kindergarten and Grades 1-4 Parties - 2:30-3:15



- **Winter Break** - December 23rd - January 3rd
- **Professional Development Day - No School for Students** - January 6th

[View the full WCS calendar here.](#)

News from Around Wyoming

[Click here for more Events and Information from around WCS & the community](#), including:

- Finance Friday: Our Latest Five Year Forecast
- WMS Play This Weekend!
- Upcoming Events
- WSMA's Fortissimo to Go on Dec. 7
- WyoShop Hours
- JWC Light Up Wyoming Luminary Sales

Photos from the Week

Click [HERE](#) to view photos from the week at WPS!