

What is the Science of Reading?

Currently, The Science of Reading is a huge buzz word in the world of education. However, it has been around for quite a while. The Science of Reading is simply the term encompassing 50 years of world wide research conducted on how the brain learns to read and the best practices for instruction.

We have learned how different parts of the brain work together to process written and spoken language and what skills are needed to become a proficient reader. Reading is not a natural process, but must be explicitly taught. Students need **both** decoding and language comprehension skills to be a proficient reader.

Decoding skills include:

- **Phonological awareness**-ability to hear and manipulate different parts in words: rhymes, syllables, individual sounds
- **Phonics**-letter sound correspondence
- **Sight recognition**-ability to quickly recognize familiar words

Language comprehension skills include:

- **Background knowledge**-what a reader knows about the world
- **Vocabulary**
- **Language structure**-understanding how sentences are built, grammar, and syntax
- **Verbal reasoning**-being able to infer meaning and reasoning skills for understanding complex ideas
- **Literacy knowledge**-reading genres, text structures, and print concepts

Check out these websites for more information:

