



K-3 Critical Reading Components

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Learning to read is one of the most important skills an individual can learn and therefore it is important to understand the five critical components of reading. The five components are: *phonological awareness & phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension*. These components work together to create strong, rich and reliable reading abilities.

Phonological & Phonemic Awareness

Phonological awareness is the ability to notice the sound structure of spoken words (Kilpatrick, 2015). Phonemic awareness is the ability to identify, isolate and manipulate language at the individual sound level. It is a part of phonological awareness.

Fluency

Reading Words at an adequate rate, with a high level of accuracy, appropriate expression, and understanding (Birsh & Carreker 2018).

Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the knowledge of words and word meanings (NIL, 2007; Honig, Diamond & Gutlohn, 2008).

Comprehension

Comprehension is making sense of what we read. Comprehension depends on good word recognition, fluency, vocabulary, worldly knowledge, and language ability (Birsh & Carreker 2018).

Phonics

A system for approaching reading that focuses on the relationship between letters and sounds (Kilpatrick, 2015).

