

Literacy

Reading "A B C" ...not as easy as 1, 2, 3...

Literacy is not a single skill. It is many skills wrapped up in two major systems:

Reading is build on language- **LONG** before a child ever opens a book.

Literacy is not memorizing sounds- it is building **MEANING**.



- ### Language Comprehension
- Vocabulary
 - Breadth + Depth (how many words you know + how well you know them)
 - Background knowledge (Facts, Concepts, Real-world understanding, Cultural references)
 - Language structures (Syntax, Semantics, Morphology, Complex sentences)
 - Verbal reasoning (Inferencing, Metaphors, Predicting outcomes, Cause & effect)



- ### Word Recognition
- Phonological awareness (Understanding syllables, rhymes, and individual speech sounds)
 - Phonemic awareness (Manipulating individual sounds in words)
 - Decoding (Understanding alphabetic principle and sound-symbol correspondence)
 - Orthographic knowledge (Recognizing spelling patterns)
 - Sight word recognition (Automatic retrieval of familiar words)

Literacy is built slowly, interconnectedly, and developmentally – through conversation, storytelling, play, listening, and exposure. It does not begin in kindergarten. It begins in infancy

Reading is a THINKING skill

Theory of Mind

- Taking another's perspective
- Understanding characters' motives, beliefs & emotions

Central Coherence

- Integrating details into a bigger meaning
- Seeing the "whole picture" of a text

Executive Functioning

- Sustained attention
- Working memory
- Organization
- Self-regulation

Metacognition

Skilled Readers

- Monitor their understanding
- Notice confusion
- Reread when needed
- Ask questions internally
- Adjust strategies

That inner dialogue is essential for deep comprehension.

They have an Inner Voice

They think about:

- Their own thinking
- The author's intent
- The tone of the text
- The rhythm of language

Literacy

Who it affects

Some people with the following diagnoses may struggle with literacy

- Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)
- Language delay or disability (LD)
- Specific language impairment (SLI)
- Dyslexia
- Autism
- ADHD
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Stroke
- Cognitive impairment

Sometimes decoding is strong but comprehension is weak



Sometimes comprehension is strong but decoding is labored

Sometimes both are impacted

Reading difficulties are not a reflection of intelligence. They reflect differences in underlying language and cognitive systems.

Literacy Is Complex – But It Is Buildable

Language can grow.
Vocabulary can expand.
Reasoning can strengthen.
Metacognition can be taught.

With explicit instruction, rich language exposure, and intentional support – reading skills can develop over time.



Early Foundations of Literacy

Being read to



Storytelling



Talking back-and-forth conversations



Singing & Rhyming



Imaginary Play



Rich Vocabulary Exposure



Literacy is **CONNECTION.**

It is access to ideas, stories, knowledge, and independence. And like all communication – it is something we can nurture.

