



The Science of Reading

Study & Action Guide: Improving Your Multi-Classroom Leadership Team's Instruction



Objectives



Review basic components of reading research.



Plan the steps your team will take to assess reading instruction and improve rapidly.

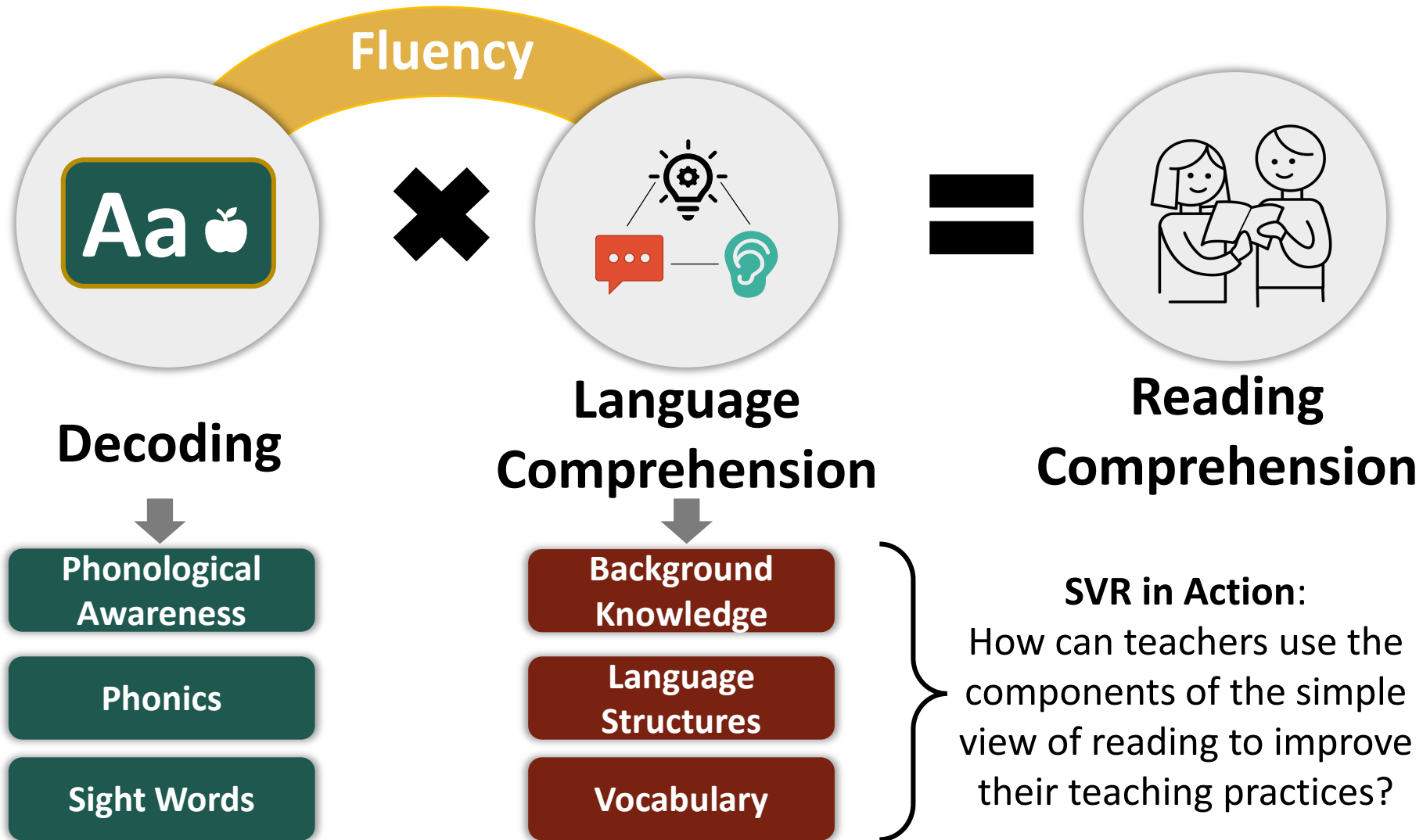


Locate information, assessments, and lesson activities in the Barksdale Reading Universe tool.



Take action! Identify clear improvement steps with reading instructional team.

Simple View of Reading in Action



Standard Process: Improve Reading Instruction Over 1 Year

Multi-Classroom Leaders: Adopt or adapt this **standard process for improving reading instruction** with your teaching team over a year, using the [Barksdale Reading Universe](#) table on slide 7 (guest password: abc123)

1) Plan your approach:

Prioritized: Identify weakest areas, make a prioritized list, and move team through table in that order; identify action steps as you go. Timing: Varied

Comprehensive: Work through table from upper left to lower right, one cell of table per week; identify action steps as you go. Timing: One school year

2) Schedule team time (such as 1 hour on Fridays)

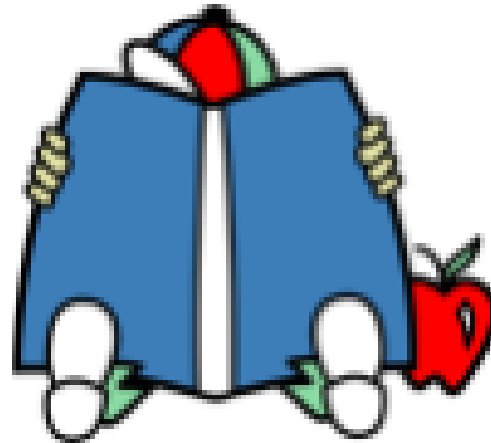
3) Introduce team to the Science of Reading using *The Science of Reading—Introduction* slide deck or Barksdale’s overviews (top bar of [table](#)). Time: 2 hours of team reading/discussion

4) Introduce your team to the Barksdale Reading Universe [table and tools](#) for improving instruction based on the science of reading (see slides 5–8) Time: 1 hour of team time

5) Weekly, use the Standard Weekly Agenda (slide 9) to study and improve. Time: 1 hour/week

The Barksdale Reading Institute




The **Barksdale Reading Institute** was founded in 2000 with the mission of dramatically improving the quality of reading education in Mississippi's schools. A key part of its mission is to expand teachers' knowledge of reading instruction through professional development grounded in the science of literacy.






“Strong, literacy-minded leadership in every public school and dedicated, creative, literacy-minded teachers in every classroom.”

Reading Universe

The Reading Universe tool is:


-  A tool that breaks down the Simple View of Reading into reasonable chunks for educators
-  A source of resources to use to supplement your reading curriculum
-  A teacher-facing tool

The Reading Universe tool is not:

-  A scope and sequence for teaching reading
-  A curriculum
-  A student-facing tool (though some materials may be used with students)

Barksdale Institute Reading Universe

To access the Reading Universe, visit readinguniverse.org/graph
 Guest Password: **abc123**

SIMPLE VIEW of READING	DECODING			LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION		READING COMPREHENSION
CONCEPTS of PRINT	PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS	PHONICS	FLUENCY	ORAL LANGUAGE	VOCABULARY	COMPREHENSION
Basic Book Parts	Syllables	Alphabetic Principle	Accuracy	Receptive Language		Levels of Understanding
Directionality	Onset and Rime	Regularly Spelled High Frequency Words	Rate	Expressive Language		Strategies of Critical Thinking
Print Structure	Articulation	Beginning Phonics (Short Vowels)	Expression	Knowledge of Words		Products of Comprehended Text
Text Features	Phonemic Awareness	Advanced Phonics (Long Vowels, etc)	Irregularly Spelled High Frequency Words	Morphology		
				Syntax		
				Pragmatics		
EARLY WRITING & ENCODING-- COMING SOON						
STRUCTURED LITERACY INSTRUCTION: Sequential, Systematic, Explicit, To Mastery, and Cumulative						

Explore The Reading Universe

- Take 10 minutes to click on Beginning Phonics in the middle of the table.
 - What is meant by this component? (Skills Overview text)
 - Click on the highlighted video demonstration
 - How might you assess student skill in this area? (Bottom right of Skills Overview)
 - What types of lessons/activities support student learning in this area? (Structured Literacy Tools section)
 - Where is the tool to assess your curriculum? (Phonics Core Program Evaluation, lower left of middle section)
 - What other resources are available? (Bottom of page)

Share one new thing you learned with your team.

Standard Weekly Agenda to Improve Reading Instruction Over a Year

Multi-Classroom Leaders: Using the standard team process to **take action to improve reading** instruction using the [Barksdale Reading Universe](#) table, adopt or adapt this standard weekly agenda.

For each [Barksdale Reading Universe](#) table cell:

1. Do your lessons and instructional methods:
 - Fully address this component of reading instruction?
 - Partly address, with some improvements needed?
 - Not address the component of reading instruction?
2. If partly or not: What 1–3 specific actions will your team take to improve immediately? Consider changes in:

a) Your core curriculum and lessons	d) Instructional methods w/ whole class, small groups and individual students
b) Student assessments	e) Preparation/practice for teachers before lessons
c) Supplementary materials for teachers/students	f) Other
3. **Make an action plan** with clear steps, roles, and deadlines. See Action Planner, slide 10.
4. Next time, reflect: Do you need more changes? Use Action Planner.

Action Planner

Change Needed	Key Steps to Make Change (list & number)	Who Does Each Step (number)	Target Date to Complete Each Step	Check Here When Completed

Sources

- Gough, P. B., & Tunmer, W. E. (1986). Decoding, reading, and reading disability. *Remedial and special education*, 7(1), 6-10.
- Barksdale Reading Institute: <https://msreads.org/>