



SPECTRUM[®]

The Research Behind Spectrum[®] Reading

Learning to read is one of the most complex and rewarding skills that students develop during childhood. The multiple interconnected processes involved in learning to read take time and extensive practice to develop, which is why frequent practice is so important! Children progressively learn how to decode written text and connect what they *hear* to what they see. Research into the science of reading demonstrates that these skills are the gateways to fluent reading, vocabulary development, and comprehension, all of which provide the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Spectrum Reading leverages 5 key research domains that are proven to help children acquire and retain knowledge:

- 1 Comprehension
- 2 Fluency
- 3 Phonological Awareness
- 4 Phonics
- 5 Vocabulary

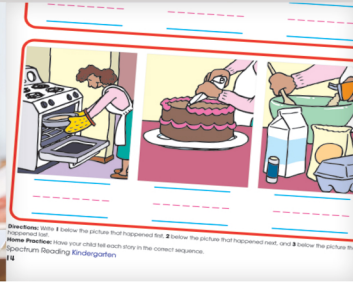
<https://www.WalkerBookstore.com/SummerReading>

5 Key Research Domains

Research has demonstrated*

Spectrum Reading offers

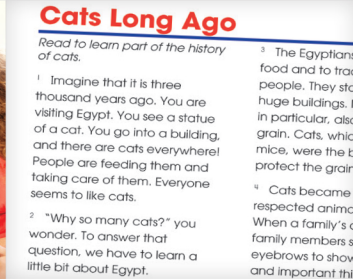
1 Comprehension



Commonly considered the primary goal of reading, comprehension occurs when a learner makes meaning out of text. Once readers can fluently decode written material, they can build connections between that material and their existing knowledge, allowing them to think deeply about what they read.

Passages are designed to provide opportunities to develop strong reading comprehension. In the very early grades, pictures and simple texts are used to build familiarity with text structures. Learners also have opportunities to practice making inferences and predictions. Later grades build upon these skills with engaging informational and fictional content that follows themes across multiple genres.

2 Fluency



Reading fluency is an important precursor to reading comprehension: better fluency is associated with better understanding of text. Researchers have found that both oral and independent reading can support fluency development.

Whether with an adult or through independent practice, learners build fluency through frequent reading across a wide variety of genres and high interest subjects. Targeted practice opportunities with text, coupled with ongoing phonics and vocabulary instruction, promotes expressive and fluid reading.

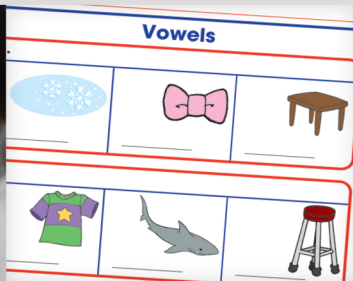
3 Phonological Awareness



Emerging readers must develop the ability to identify and manipulate the sounds of language. This ability, called phonological awareness, is critical for learning how to decode printed text, and is related to phonics. For example, when children recognize rhymes or identify beginning sounds when they listen to words, they are demonstrating phonological awareness.

Young learners practice skills across the spectrum of phonological awareness, including identifying onset sounds, consonant/vowel blends, rhyming, and digraphs. This practice helps build confidence and fluency as they get ready to learn to read.

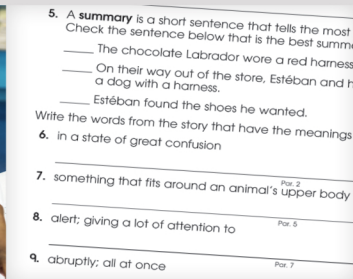
4 Phonics



Phonics is the set of skills involved in learning letters and letter combinations—and how the text on the page corresponds to sounds in spoken language. When children “sound out” words, they are using phonics.

Young learners are encouraged to apply their growing understanding of phonics with support from engaging graphics that include familiar objects, routines, and sequences. Children begin to decode on their own through a wide variety of activities that connect sounds to text.

5 Vocabulary



As children encounter new words and build their vocabulary, they strengthen their ability to communicate effectively and understand what they read. Researchers study four main types of vocabulary: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. All four types are best learned through a combination of indirect (e.g. independent reading) and direct approaches (e.g. looking up definitions).

Learners are exposed to a wide range of new vocabulary terms and are encouraged to refer back to the text to understand how each is used in context. Learners also practice identifying and using vocabulary introduced in each text when answering comprehension questions. This is an especially valuable skill, as frequent vocabulary use helps learners remember new words and better understand what they read.