

Building Blocks of Literacy Competencies & Evidence

What you will know and be able to do:

- Identify, articulate and reflect upon the key skills and components of early literacy development.
- Identify the critical components of an effective literacy environment.
- Utilize and navigate the Standards Aligned System and the PA Comprehensive Literacy Plan as tools to support literacy instruction.
- Develop a connection between the components needed for effective literacy instruction and the environment needed to support the development of those skills.

Evidence of learning:

- Explain the key skills of early literacy development using Scarborough's Rope and by reconstructing the 4-part processing system.
- Create a model of an effective learning environment as it pertains to your classroom/role.
- Summarize the new learnings and the relevance of those learnings on the participant's role.
- Create a plan for continuation of learning and developing practice.

Building Blocks of Literacy and KtO

The purpose of Keystones to Opportunity (KtO) is to improve literacy learning outcomes for all students. KtO provides districts with the structure to build and implement a literacy plan that ensures consistency and leads to student success. Building Blocks for Literacy provides the foundational skills that are essential to initiating and developing reading capacity.

Building Blocks for Literacy includes the following components which provide students with age-appropriate, explicit, evidence-based, and systematic instruction.

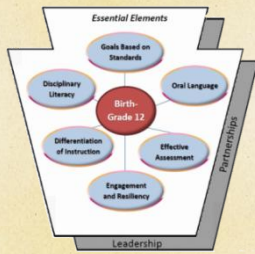
- Oral Language
- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics and Word Study
- Accuracy and Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Writing

Ensuring student success requires much more than an effective reading program. Most importantly, it requires building teacher capacity in literacy knowledge through rigorous, ongoing professional development which is provided through KtO.

Literacy includes reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, visually representing, and thinking in order to communicate and contribute to society. (IRA, 2010)

Building Blocks of Literacy Connections

Building Blocks of Literacy connects with many of the other literacy efforts within this initiative. The DIBELS Next and GRADE assessments will provide valuable **data in making instructional decisions** about how best to meet the needs of all students. **Learners with special needs** and **English language learners** need additional instruction, support, and reinforcement in the components of effective reading instruction. Since not all students learn in the same way, **UDL** will provide clear understanding about how best to design instruction tailored to the way that students learn best. **Family engagement** plays a crucial role in reading development that begins with oral language. Schools need to communicate clearly with families and work together as students make the **transition** from "learning to read" to "reading to learn".



The Pennsylvania Comprehensive Literacy Plan

- Literacy is a critical foundation for all learning and serves as a “keystone” for opportunity and success. (Guiding Principle 1)
- Evidence-based decision-making must be at the heart of all instructional decisions related to literacy development. (Guiding Principle 4)
- Oral language is the foundation for literacy development. Speaking and listening are the tools of communication that become the basis for the written word. (Essential Element 2)
- Fostering engagement and academic resiliency are keys to developing literate students. (Essential Element 4)
- Differentiation of instruction is key to enhancing students’ ability to learn. (Essential Element 5)

PA Common Core and Building Blocks of Literacy

Keystones to Opportunity:

Pennsylvania’s Vision for
Sustainable Growth in Reading
Achievement

1.1 Foundational Skills (Pre K – 5).....

Students gain a working knowledge of concepts of print, alphabetic principle, and other basic conventions.

1.2 Reading Informational Text

Students read, understand, and respond to informational text – with an emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and making connections.

1.3 Reading Literature

Students read and respond to works of literature - with emphasis on comprehension vocabulary acquisition, making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence.

1.4 Writing

Students write for different purposes and audiences.

1.5 Speaking and Listening

Students present appropriately in formal speaking situations, listen critically, and respond intelligently as individuals or in group discussions. (www.pdesas.org)



Building Blocks of Literacy

This project was funded 100% from Federal Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Discretionary Funds through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Pennsylvania received 38.6 million dollars in fiscal year 2011 to develop and implement literacy improvement Birth through Grade 12.