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BIG IDEAS

in

BEGINNING READING

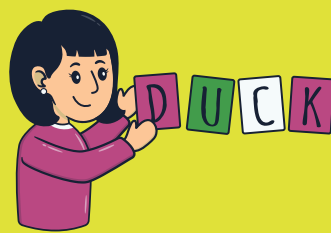
PHONEMIC AWARENESS

The ability to recognize and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words. It is a crucial precursor to reading and is entirely auditory, meaning it does not involve written letters.



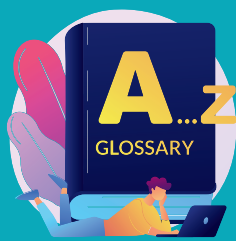
PHONICS

Understanding the relationship between letters and sounds, and how to use this knowledge to decode (read) and encode (spell) words. Phonics instruction enables students to sound out words, making reading and spelling more automatic over time.



VOCABULARY

The knowledge of word meanings, including oral and written words. A strong vocabulary improves comprehension since readers can understand more of what they read. Learning, as a language-based activity, is fundamentally and profoundly dependent on vocabulary knowledge.



FLUENCY

The ability to read text accurately, quickly, and with proper expression. A fluent reader can read a passage smoothly without struggling to decode each word. Fluency bridges decoding and comprehension—when students read effortlessly, they can focus more on understanding the text.



COMPREHENSION



The ability to understand, interpret, and gain meaning from written text. ***Comprehension is the ultimate goal of reading.***