Activities for Tiered Literacy Instruction
Phonemic Awareness

3

- **One-on-One Instruction:** Tailor to individual needs, focusing on specific gaps in phonemic awareness

2

- **Small Group Sound Games:** Deliver more intensive practice with blending, segmenting, and manipulating sounds
- **Sound/Elkonin Boxes:** Represent sounds in words visually by using manipulatives to represent each sound

1

- **Sound Games:** Play games that require rhyming, blending, and segmenting
- **Songs and Chants:** Incorporate rhythm and rhyme to reinforce sound manipulation
- **Sound/Elkonin Boxes:** Represent sounds in words visually by using manipulatives to represent each sound

Resources

- Free Printable Elkonin Boxes and How to Use Them | We Are Teachers
- 20 phonemic awareness activities for students | The 95 Percent Group

Activities for Tiered Literacy Instruction

Phonics

3

- **Intensive Phonics Tutoring:** Offer systematic, explicit instruction on phonics patterns with frequent feedback
- **Specialized Interventions:** Explore specific, data-driven methods for students with dyslexia or other reading difficulties (e.g., Orton-Gillingham)

2

- **Word Study:** Target instruction on specific phonics patterns based on individual student needs
- **Multi-sensory Phonics Activities:** Incorporate visual, auditory, and kinesthetic elements to reinforce learning

1

- **Systematic, Explicit Instruction:** Follow a logical progression of phonics skills, starting with letter-sound relationships and progressing to complex phonics patterns.
- **Decodable Texts:** Provide lots of practice with texts that facilitate the application of taught phonics skills.
- **Hands-on Activities:** Practice phonics with letter tiles, magnetic letters, and word-building games

Resources

- [The Orton-Gillingham Approach | Orton-Gillingham.com](#)
- [Classroom accommodations for dyslexia | Understood.org](#)
- [Decodable Text Sources | The Reading League](#)
- [How To Set Up a Sound Wall in Your Classroom | We Are Teachers](#)

Activities for Tiered Literacy Instruction

Vocabulary

3

- **Targeted Vocabulary Instruction:** Explicitly identify keywords from texts and provide frequent opportunities to use those words in context
- **Visualization and Hands-on Models:** Enhance understanding and build connections to prior learning with visual aids and concrete objects
- **Personalized Vocabulary Practice:** Use flashcards, word games, and other activities to build vocabulary

2

- **Targeted Vocabulary Instruction:** Explicitly identify keywords from texts and provide frequent opportunities to use those words in context
- **Vocabulary to Know:** Provide a short list of relevant academic vocabulary words needed to understand the text; add/note these words to the text or display/highlight them in the classroom for easy access
- **Semantic Mapping:** Use graphic organizers and word maps to deepen understanding of word relationships

1

- **Direct Instruction of Academic Vocabulary:** Front-load units of study with vocabulary needed to access the content
- **Core Vocabulary Boards:** Display academic vocabulary with images for visual representation
- **Word Sorts:** Categorize words by meaning, spelling patterns, or other features
- **Rich Read-Alouds:** Expose students to a wide variety of vocabulary-rich texts

Resources

- Connecting Word Meanings Through Semantic Mapping | Reading Rockets
- Core Vocabulary and How to Teach It

Activities for Tiered Literacy Instruction

Fluency

3

- **One-on-One Fluency Practice:** Offer immediate corrective feedback while student reads a familiar text aloud
- **Technology-based Fluency Practice:** Similar to One-on-One Fluency Practice, but done with the support of technology (e.g., students read aloud to software that provides feedback).

2

- **Partner-reading/Reading Buddies:** Pair struggling readers with fluent readers to model appropriate pacing and expression
- **Readers Theater:** Practice reading with expression and fluency through dramatic performance
- **Repeated Oral Reading:** Listen and provide feedback and support while the student reads a familiar text aloud

1

- **Repeated Reading:** Practice reading familiar texts multiple times for speed and accuracy
- **Choral Reading:** Ease reading anxieties by reading an entire passage together, out loud, as teacher and class
- **Teacher Read-aloud:** Model correct pronunciation, fluency, and comprehension strategies (e.g. think-alouds, defining word in context, etc.)
- **Partner Reading:** Take turns reading with a partner; meet daily to discuss the previous day's reading

Resources

- What Is Readers Theater | Scholastic.com
- Individualized, High-Impact Virtual Tutoring | OnYourMark Education
- 4 Reading Strategies to Retire This Year (Plus 6 to Try Out!) | Edutopia

Activities for Tiered Literacy Instruction

Comprehension

3

- **One-on-One Comprehension Support:** Targeted instruction on specific comprehension strategies, with a focus on explicit modeling and think-alouds.
- **Assistive Technology:** Use of assistive technology (e.g., text-to-speech software) to support reading access and comprehension.

2

- **Close Reading:** Guide students through careful examination of texts, focusing on key details and the author's craft
- **Graphic Organizers:** Support understanding with visual representations
- **Small Group Discussions:** Deepen understanding through collaborative text analysis

1

- **Build Background Knowledge:** Pre-teach important vocabulary and concepts and make connections to prior learning
- **Think-Alouds:** Model comprehension strategies (e.g., predicting, questioning, summarizing)
- **Graphic Organizers:** Support understanding with visual representations
- **Retelling:** Encourage students to summarize and retell stories in their own words

Resources

- Reading Graphic Organizers | Iowa Reading Research Center
- How to Teach Close Reading to Elementary Students | Edutopia