


Promoting Literacy Success

Noel Kelty, PhD
Michigan's Multi-tiered System of Supports (MiMTSS)
Technical Assistance Center



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Promoting Literacy Success
Michigan Alliance for Families

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mimtsstac.org



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Group Agreements


We are Responsible

- Return on time from breaks
- Take care of our needs

We are Engaged

- Share "air time"
- Plan to participate in multiple ways
 - Chat, breakout rooms, polls, reactions, unmute
 - Ask questions

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Training Effectiveness

- At the end of the session, you will be asked to provide feedback on today's training
- Results will be used to make improvements to professional learning and for reporting to TA Center stakeholders
- One of the feedback questions you will see is related to promoting and positively portraying diversity among educators and learners (e.g., focus on asset-based language, positive representation of multiple identities)

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Purpose

Did you know that family engagement in a child's literacy learning positively and significantly impacts school performance?

The **purpose** of this presentation is to provide families with knowledge and skills in promoting literacy skills.

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Intended Outcomes

- Discuss the benefits of partnering with their child's school to support literacy learning
- Identify key principles in supporting literacy learning
- Learn about the research and strategies to support literacy learning
- Identify resources to support families in their child's literacy success


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Agenda

- 1.0 Introductions
- 2.0 Why is literacy important?
- 3.0 Essential components of early literacy
- 4.0 How families can support literacy
- 5.0 Partnering with schools
- 4.0 Resources

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1.0 Introductions


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Activity 1: Introductions

- In the chat, add:
 - Your name
 - Where you are from
 - Ages of your children or children you work with




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2.0 Why is Literacy Important?

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What we Know about Early Literacy

- “Early literacy (reading and writing) does not mean early reading instruction or teaching babies to read; it is the natural development of skills through the enjoyment of books, the importance of positive interactions between children and parents, and the critical role of literacy-rich experiences.” –American Library Association
- Literacy-rich experiences include the intentional teaching of skills within language- and print-rich environments

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Early Literacy Experiences Matter!

- A study of 3- to 5-year-old children who had been read to at least three times a week found that the children were:
 - Two times more likely to recognize letters in the alphabet
 - Two times more likely to have sight word recognition
 - Two times more likely to understand words in context

(American Library Association, 2009)

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Why is Literacy Important?

"Sharing thoughts, ideas, and emotions is key to the human experience. Developing literacy skills facilitates effective communication. Over a lifetime, children hone their skills to read, write, speak, listen, think, and respond critically—skills that unlock the world's secrets and provide unlimited possibilities. Literacy matters because of the endless doors it opens!" –Jackie Bourassa

(Education Development Center, 2023)

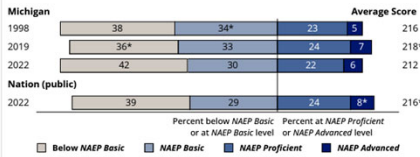
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Michigan Facts

NAEP ACHIEVEMENT-LEVEL PERCENTAGES AND AVERAGE SCORE RESULTS



52% of Michigan's third-grade students had a "reading deficiency" between first and third grade

* Significantly different (p < .05) from the state's results in 2022. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.
NOTE: NAEP achievement levels are to be used on a trial basis and should be interpreted and used with caution. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

(Chambers, 2022; National Center for Education Statistics, 2022)

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3.0 Essential Literacy Components


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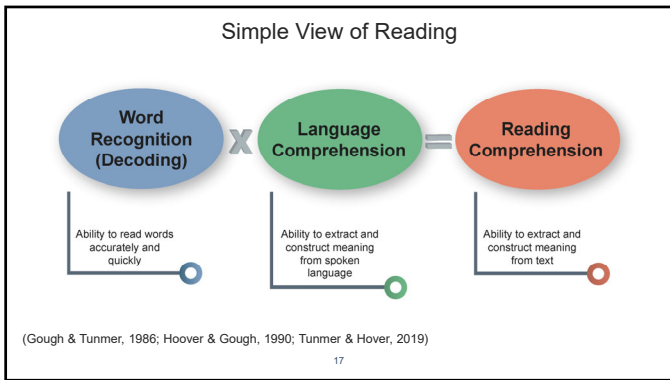
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Components of Early Literacy

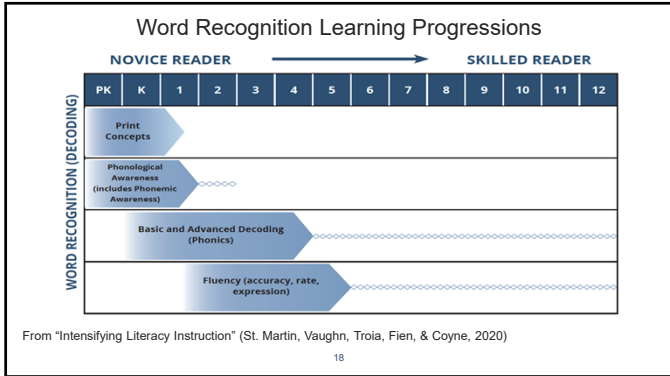
- Oral language (includes vocabulary)
- Phonological awareness (includes phonemic awareness)
- Phonics
- Fluency
- Comprehension



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Print Concepts

- Children with strong awareness of print can:
 - Recognize letters and words in their environment
 - Understand that those letters and words carry meaning and can be used in different ways

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How can Families Encourage Print Concepts?

- Teach children to write their name. Use a capital letter and lower case for the rest of the letters. Write it for them and let them trace it, copy it, make it from play dough, or draw it in sand.
- Point out words and letters when reading together. 'There's the letter M, it says mmm for Mommy. Can you see the S that says sss for Sam?'
- Encourage children to find the letters in their name or the names of family members and in other places like books, signs, packaging, and shop windows.

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Phonological Awareness

- Children with strong phonological awareness can hear:
 - Words and word spaces in language
 - Syllables- Unit of pronunciation with one vowel sound; for example, cat has one syllable, water has two syllables
 - Rhyme- Two or more sounds with the same ending sound like *ring, sing, thing*
 - Alliteration- Two or more sounds with the same beginning sound such as *Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers*
 - Phonemes- Individual sounds in a word, such as dog has three phonemes, *d-o-g*

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How can Families Encourage Phonological Awareness?

- Read aloud books or poems with rhyming words at the end of lines or sentences. Invite children to join in and predict the next rhyming word
- Listen for and clap with the syllables or familiar and new words, for example, *jump-ing*, *wa-ter*, *ha-pi-ness*, *fab-u-lous*
- Sing songs, say nursery rhymes, chants, riddles, silly poems, tongue twisters, and jokes

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Phonics

- The relationship between the letters (or letter combinations) in written language and the individual sounds in spoken language
- Phonics instruction teaches students how to use these relationships to read and spell words
- Phonics instruction enhances children’s success in learning to read

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How can Families Help with Phonics Learning at Home?

- Help children sound out words
 - Model how to say all the sounds in the word, stretching and connecting sounds together as much as possible
 - Have your child sound out the word with you
 - Repeat the word
 - Ask if the word makes sense


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Fluency


- The ability to read as well as speak and to make sense of the text without having to stop and decode each word
- Has a positive impact on word recognition, reading fluency, and comprehension
- Makes oral reading lively and allows the author's message to be communicated clearly
- Gives readers confidence in their own ability as readers and helps them enjoy reading



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How can Families Encourage Fluency?

- Read and reread favorite books
- Read aloud with emotion
- Invent sounds when reading
- Use different voices to indicate the characters and narrator
- Change your volume, tone and pace as you read different parts of a book
- Listen to audio books together
- Have fun and your child will too!



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Language Comprehension Learning Progressions

	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION	Oral Language (Includes Vocabulary)													
	Background Knowledge / Topic Knowledge (necessary for level of understanding and use of inferring skills)													
	Listening Comprehension → Reading Comprehension (Includes Syntax and Sentence-Level Comprehension)													

From "Intensifying Literacy Instruction" (St. Martin, Vaughn, Troia, Fien, & Coyne, 2020)

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Oral Language

- Oral language is the foundation for all literacy skills. If young children experience rich oral language by talking and listening to adults and other children, they will:
 - Have a larger vocabulary
 - Join in word play and rhyming
 - Learn how language can change in different situations
 - Understand that words have meaning and we use language to communicate information, ideas, feelings, and thoughts

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How can Families Encourage Oral Language?

- Talk to your child and listen responsively
- Ask open-ended questions
- Read aloud to your child at least once a day
- Talk with your child about the books you read together

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Vocabulary

- The larger a reader's vocabulary is, the easier it is to make sense of the text.
- "Vocabulary knowledge is knowledge: the knowledge of a word not only implies a definition, but also implies how that word fits into the world" (Steven Stahl, 2005).
- Supports reading development and increases comprehension.

(Stahl, 2005; National Reading Panel, 2000; Literacy Hub, 2023)

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How can Families Support Vocabulary Development

- Reading aloud daily
- Become 'word aware' as you read aloud. While reading together, comment on words you know are new to your child. What do they sound like? What could they mean? What do they remind you of?
- Get your child to be a 'word detective' when out and about. Notice new and interesting words throughout your environment
- Use a wide vocabulary when speaking to your child
- Use new and unfamiliar words in conversation with your child

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Comprehension

- The process readers use to understand what they have read
- Begins before children can read
- Includes predicting before reading and as they read
- Making connections between what is being read and personal experience
- Asking questions about what is being read
- Creating a mental picture of key parts of the story or information

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How can Families Encourage Comprehension?

- Read together for lots of purposes
- Discuss and reflect on what you read together
- Share your response to a book read together with your child such as, "I like the part when..." or, "what did you like?"
- Talk about other books or experiences that you are reminded of when reading aloud, "this part of the story reminds me of..."
- Retell stories to each other after reading. Make stories part of play with dolls, art, sand play or play dough


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4.0 How Can Families Support Literacy?

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Families Play a Key Role in Literacy Success!

Children begin developing literacy skills from the moment they are born through relationships with caregivers. By talking, singing, and playing with your child, you provide the foundation your child needs to develop language and literacy skills.

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For Young Children

- Nursery rhymes=increased language and early literacy development
- Label objects in your home. This can show the importance of language, reading, writing
- Talk about everyday experiences
- Show your child pictures and talk about them, "I see," "I think," "I wonder"
- Tell stories

(Reade, 2017)

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For Older Children

- Play word games, talk about word meanings, and point out interesting or new words when reading together
- Ask questions before, during, and after reading aloud
- Before reading, look at the book cover and talk about what might happen in the story
- During reading ask your child what questions they have
- After reading, ask your child to summarize and relate the story to what they already know or who have experienced

(Reade, 2017)

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5.0 Resources

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Resources for Families

Reading Material



Read Alouds



(Michigan Department of Education, 2022)


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More Resources for Families


<p>Michigan Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Engagement for Literacy, Michigan Department of Education • Is Your Child a Struggling Reader? Michigan Alliance for Families • Facts for Families: What is the Read by Grade 3 Law? Michigan Department of Education 	<p>National Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tips for Supporting Reading Skills at Home, Institute for Education Sciences • Why Some Kids Struggle and How to Help, Reading Rockets
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Today's Big Ideas


- Early literacy experiences at home are important for literacy success. Talk, read, and/or play with your child every day!
- The big concepts in literacy development include oral language, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, and comprehension
- There are many resources available to support you and your child through their literacy journey. The more we learn, the more tools we have to support literacy learning!

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Activity 2: Taking Action!

- In the chat, add one activity that you will be doing in the next week to support your child's literacy success
- Do not hit enter until you are told to
- After you hit enter, scroll up and review everyone's ideas

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Michigan Alliance for Families

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