



# New York State Literacy and Writing Instructional Best Practices

Literacy Pillars	NYS PreK-3rd Grade Instructional Best Practices (PreK)	Every Child Ready Alignment
Phonemic Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop awareness of segments of sound in speech.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Super Sounds component of Morning Meeting (<a href="#">Super Sounds Overview</a>).</li><li>Flexible Small Groups: Literacy lessons (compound words, syllables, rhyming words, isolating sounds, onset-rime, phonemes).</li><li>Centers activities that reinforce phonemic awareness.</li></ul>
Phonics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teach students letter-sound relations.</li><li>Introduce letters (graphemes) with the sounds (phonemes) they make.</li><li>Provide opportunities to practice letter identification and sounds.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Morning Meeting: Super Sounds component (<a href="#">Super Sounds Overview</a>). Two letters are introduced each week, beginning in week 3 of Unit 2.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Letter and letter sound introduction for upper and lowercase letters.</li><li>Children practice using letter bodies, letter stories, a letter hunt, and letter chants and review.</li></ul></li><li>Flexible Small Groups: Alphabet knowledge lessons</li><li>Centers: Activities that reinforce phonics.</li></ul>
Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Model fluent reading on a daily basis.</li><li>Provide daily opportunities for students to practice reading fluency.</li><li>Model fluent reading for students by reading with expression, gestures and facial expressions, and intonation in voice.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read Aloud. Occurs twice per day. Lessons include guidance for teachers on supporting fluency.</li><li>Library Center includes opportunities for children to explore books independently, with peers, and with teacher guidance.</li><li>Centers: Include thematic books related to activities when appropriate.</li><li>Flexible Small Groups: Narrative comprehension and accelerated literacy lessons.</li></ul>

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Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan activities to expand and practice vocabulary.</li> <li>• Introduce words and their meanings.</li> <li>• Engage students in activities to enhance vocabulary and language skills.</li> <li>• Teach vocabulary in the context of other reading activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily in all lessons: Vocabulary is listed in each lesson plan. The ECR Platform includes child-friendly definitions and visuals.</li> <li>• Thematic units: Children see words in the context of a broader theme and vocabulary is reinforced through all components and the classroom environment.</li> <li>• Read Aloud: Twice daily, introduce vocabulary and review through repeated reads of each book.</li> <li>• Morning Meeting: Introduce thematic unit vocabulary.</li> <li>• Centers: Reinforce thematic vocabulary using activities and thematic picture word cards, books, and visuals. Facilitations include prompts to practice vocabulary with children in authentic ways.</li> <li>• Flexible Small Groups: Receptive and expressive language lessons.</li> <li>• Teacher resources: <a href="#">Vocabulary Protocol</a></li> </ul>
Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach students to activate background knowledge prior to reading.</li> <li>• Engage in high-quality shared book reading and ensure students connect to texts daily.</li> <li>• Ask questions and engage students in conversations surrounding text daily.</li> <li>• Model and explicitly teach comprehension strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Aloud: Occurs twice per day. Lessons include guidance for teachers on supporting comprehension.</li> <li>• Morning Meeting: Includes opportunities for children to share their thoughts, ideas, and perspectives.</li> <li>• Centers: Library facilitation includes guidance for shared reading with children.</li> <li>• Flexible Small Groups: Narrative comprehension, book knowledge, and accelerated literacy lessons.</li> </ul>

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Oral Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan activities to expand and practice language skills.</li> <li>• Engage students in conversations.</li> <li>• Intentionally plan activities to build children's language skills.</li> <li>• Create a language-rich environment in which students engage in meaningful conversations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily lessons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language support strategies are included in lesson scripting (think alouds, self-talk, parallel-talk, repetition, recasting, and extension).</li> <li>• Conversation starters and activities such as turn-and-talks are embedded in lessons to support adult-child and child-child oral language.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Centers: Facilitation includes scripted prompts to support oral language.</li> <li>• Flexible Small Groups: Expressive language lessons.</li> <li>• Teacher resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance for teachers on creating a <a href="#"><u>Print-Rich Learning Environment</u></a>.</li> <li>• Language Support Strategies handout for all daily components (example: <a href="#"><u>Question of the Day</u></a>).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach students to use the writing process for a variety of purposes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u>States of Writing Development Handout</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Stages of Writing Development Planning Sheet</u></a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Journaling: Learn purposes of writing, engage in shared writing activities, practice emergent writing and conventions.</li> <li>• Centers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing Center</li> <li>• All Centers include authentic writing opportunities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Flexible Small Groups: Name writing lessons.</li> <li>• Learning Lab: Opportunities for writing related to the scientific process.</li> </ul>