



Literacy Development

Resources:



[Milestones of Early Literacy Development](#)



[Guidelines for assisting children in each reading stage](#)



[How to teach speech sounds](#)



[Phonemic Awareness Activities](#)

5 Stages of Literacy Development: Each stage listed below builds upon the previous stage with “Emergent Literacy” being the foundation. View the “[Road to Literacy](#).” Receive free books from [Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library](#).

1. Emergent Literacy (Phonemic Awareness)

- This is hearing, identifying and manipulating sounds in words.
- **What it looks like:** Understanding stories, using the picture to solve unknown words, differentiate between a letter and a word.
- **Why it’s important:** Hearing children can pick up on phonemic awareness automatically (B makes the /b/ sound). Deaf/ Hard of Hearing (D/HH) children need to be taught this relationship. If the relationship between letters and sounds isn’t automatic, the child has less ability for comprehension/fluency of the content.

2. Alphabetic Fluency (Phonics)

- This is the connection between letters and sounds.
- **What it looks like:** Phonemic awareness, print awareness, letter recognition, understanding that letters represent sounds. Can read sight words and long vowels.
- **Why it’s important:** Decoding is the primary means of recognizing words. There are too many words, in any language, to rely on memorization.

3. Words and Patterns (Vocabulary)

- This is understanding, defining, and using words.
- **What it looks like:** Improved reading skills. Can read compound words. Child recognizes syllables and phonemes rather than individual letters.
- **Why it’s important:** Transitional step to fluency and comprehension

4. Intermediate Reading (Fluency)

- This is reading words at an appropriate rate, accurately, and with appropriate expression. Word recognition skills are “automatic,” they do not require conscious attention.
- **What it looks like:** Independent reading, using inflection, expression, and able to self correct.
- **Why it’s important:** Repetition in fluency will lead to comprehension.

5. Advanced Reading (Comprehension)

- This is understanding and analyzing what was read, without assistance.
- **What it looks like:** Reading to learn. Can understand a text, and summarize and rephrase it. Able to have insight into the the different meanings of a story, such as underlying themes, foreshadowing, etc.
- **Why it’s important:** Understands what they read and uses it to learn; can write longer pieces like essays or reports.