



Science of Reading, Common Core and Kid Scoop News® — A Shared Vision

The Science of Reading refers to over five decades of research review from the fields of education, psychology and neuroscience that explain: 1) How humans learn to read; and 2) Best practices for reading instruction. This body of research is critical for educators to understand as it affects how reading is taught, what strategies and methods to use in the classroom to have a positive impact on reading achievement, and—equally important—what methods to avoid using that could have a negative impact on reading success.

The Science of Reading — Five Pillars

A report released by The National Reading Panel in 2000 built upon the Science of Reading and identified five key concepts at the core of **every effective reading instruction program**:

1. Phonemic Awareness
2. Phonics
3. Fluency
4. Vocabulary
5. Comprehension

These key concepts are now known as the “five pillars” of early literacy and reading instruction.

How are the five pillars of early literacy and reading instruction connected to the common core standards?

The Science of Reading and Common Core Standards

For over a decade elementary educators have used the common core standards to guide literacy instruction in classrooms across the country. The standards break reading into three areas in the earliest grades: 1) Foundational Skills; 2) Reading: Literature; and, 3) Reading: Informational Text.

In the common core, **foundational skills** are specific skills needed to decode text and include print concepts, *phonological (or phonemic) awareness and phonics*—skills directly connected to the first two pillars of the Science of Reading.

The common core standards for **reading literature and informational text** provide authentic experiences to build fluency and vocabulary. When combined with strong *decoding* (or foundational) skills, *fluency* and *vocabulary* enable the *comprehension* of text and link to the three remaining pillars of the Science of Reading.



How does Kid Scoop News®, in turn, support the Science of Reading and the common core standards?

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The Science of Reading, Common Core Standards and Kid Scoop News®

Kid Scoop News® supports foundational skills central to the Science of Reading research and the common core standards by integrating the five pillars of reading into thematic units of informational text in a highly engaging and interactive way. High interest readings are presented with colorful illustrations, charts, diagrams, and activities that motivate and excite young readers. Thematic topics cover a wide range of interests and multiple content areas. Students “learn to read” as they “read to learn” while practicing skills and strategies using an authentic resource in newspaper format.

Kid Scoop News® and the Five Pillars

Pillar #1: Phonemic Awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and use individual sounds—phonemes—in spoken words. Phonological awareness improves student’s word recognition.

Kid Scoop News® develops phonemic awareness by using letters of the alphabet in activities such as:

- counting, pronouncing, and segmenting syllables
- recognizing and producing rhyming words
- recognizing alliteration or groups of words that begin with the same sound

Kid Scoop News® can be used to present individual letters and their sounds or as a resource to create word games inspired by the weekly theme. Students can explore the words on the page to identify chunks of sounds—or sort words into categories based on sound. With *Kid Scoop News®* there is no need to prepare copies—each copy is a consumable resource that can be cut up or written on—providing the perfect source for interactive instruction.

Pillar #2: Phonics means knowing and applying grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. This skill helps beginning readers learn the relationship between the letters of written language and the sounds of spoken language. A strong foundation in phonics leads to an understanding of the alphabetic principle—the predictable relationship between written letters and spoken sounds.

Kid Scoop News® provides opportunities for children to apply their learning about letters and sounds to the reading of words, sentences, and short passages. *Kid Scoop News®* stories can be used to practice decoding or any number of phonics lessons on sound matching, identifying digraphs or the meaning of affixes.



Pillar #3: Fluency is the ability to read text with purpose and understanding.

Kid Scoop News[®] helps children practice reading a variety of literary and informational text out loud, to a partner, or in small groups while working on speed and prosody—the rhythm, stress, and intonation of speech. In addition, students can locate unfamiliar words, analyze words for recognizable morphemes both in roots and suffixes, read contractions, abbreviations, and check the meaning of words within context.

Pillar #4: Vocabulary has been described as “all the words known and used” by a person.

Having a rich and varied vocabulary has been empirically linked to academic achievement. Research supports that to retain words and comprehend meaning in text, students need repeated exposure to words in a variety of increasingly complex contexts.

Kid Scoop News[®] supports a range of vocabulary activities. Cartoon characters guide students using everyday speech, idioms, and direct quotations. Activities are introduced with directions that repeatedly include academic words. Most exciting is the constant exposure to building vocabulary through domain-specific words that are part of every lesson.

Pillar #5: Comprehension is the reason for reading. Good readers have a purpose for reading and think actively as they read with fluency.

Kid Scoop News[®] supports comprehension in multiple ways including:

- reading to gather information about the theme
- completing a task using multiple steps
- directing students to activities that extend learning
- asking students to make sense of what they read by locating evidence to support responses
- providing students with a weekly writing prompt related to the theme
- understanding written directions for activities across content areas including math, science, social studies, history, health, and art
- using questions and puzzles to generate curiosity to read and learn more about a topic
- frequent use of “cloze” activities

Kid Scoop News[®] can be used to teach previewing, reviewing, critical thinking, summarizing, identifying main idea and supporting details, problems and solutions, or simply to gain new information about an interesting topic. It supports the common core, builds on the Science of Reading and keeps kids engaged, focused and wanting to read more!

