

K-5 Explicit and Systematic Phonics Instruction

Course Companion

The Course Companion is designed to allow participants to capture notes, reflections and action steps as they work through a course. Additionally, the Course Companion contains a list of all extra resources listed in the course. Each section of the Course Companion is linked to a corresponding section of the course.

Consider this Scenario

As Mrs. Bell's reviews the phonics screener is scores for her first-grade student, Hank, she notes in his reading profile that he is well below the benchmark on phoneme segmentation, and nonsense whole words. Her classroom formative assessments confirm this data. She places Hank and a few other students with similar needs in a group whom she meets with three times a week. She works with Hank and his group on letter sounds, letter recognition and adds in CVC words. From classroom observation, Mrs. Bell notices that Hank uses pictures to guess words or the first letter to guess words. She plans instruction by using short, decodable texts and plans for dictation activities; she will collect data on his progress on a frequent basis.

Can you relate to the above scenario? In what ways are your challenges in literacy instruction similar or different?

Video: Systematic Phonics Instruction with Dr. Jan Hasbrouck

Notes:

Resources:

Reading Rockets provides an [informal assessment of phonic elements](#). Jot down some ways that you might use an informal assessment such as this in your classroom or building.

Course Reflection:

What instructional tools or resources do you currently use for phonics?

- How has this course affirmed or challenged your current approaches to these tools or resources?
- Are your current tools and resources adequate to support phonics instruction?

Consider what it means for instruction to be explicit and systematic.

- Identify two or three ways your current instructional approaches can be more explicit and systematic.

The following resources are listed in the course:

- [The University of Florida Literacy Institute](#) website has a number of helpful resources related to phonics instruction.
- [The Drudgery \(and Beauty\) of Decodable Texts](#) by Margaret Goldberg (Reading Rockets)