

Neuhaus Reading Readiness

Starting the Year Off Right!

The purpose of Reading Readiness is to develop the foundational skills of phonological awareness, letter recognition, and oral language which are essential to the acquisition of reading and spelling skills.

There are two schedules in the Reading Readiness curriculum. The initial schedule includes letter recognition, phonological awareness, and oral language. Proficiency with the initial schedule skills is generally defined as being able to build the alphabet arc in sequence within two minutes and to correctly segment the sounds of a word with three phonemes. The advanced schedule includes letter recognition, phonological awareness, multisensory letter introductions, handwriting, and oral language.

The weeks spent at the beginning of the year are an ideal time to establish instructional procedures and routines. Teachers should also consider the materials needed for instruction, including counters, mirrors, letter cards, plastic letters, matching mats and alphabet arcs, sound boards, say it- move it cards, visual aids for phonological awareness activities, boxes or bags for material storage, pictures for oral language units, a reading deck, a word deck, and story retelling cards.

Mastery Checks are an essential component of Reading Readiness instruction. There are three Mastery Checks in Reading Readiness- the Initial Schedule Mastery Check, and two Advanced Schedule Mastery Checks. The data from these Mastery Checks will help teachers to be diagnostic and prescriptive with instruction. Remember- go as fast as you can, but as slow as you must!

For more information about the individual components of the Reading Readiness routine, lesson planning, and mastery checks, refer to the Reading Readiness training materials or the "Hints" video series at neuhaus.org/educators/consumables. We hope you have a wonderful school year!