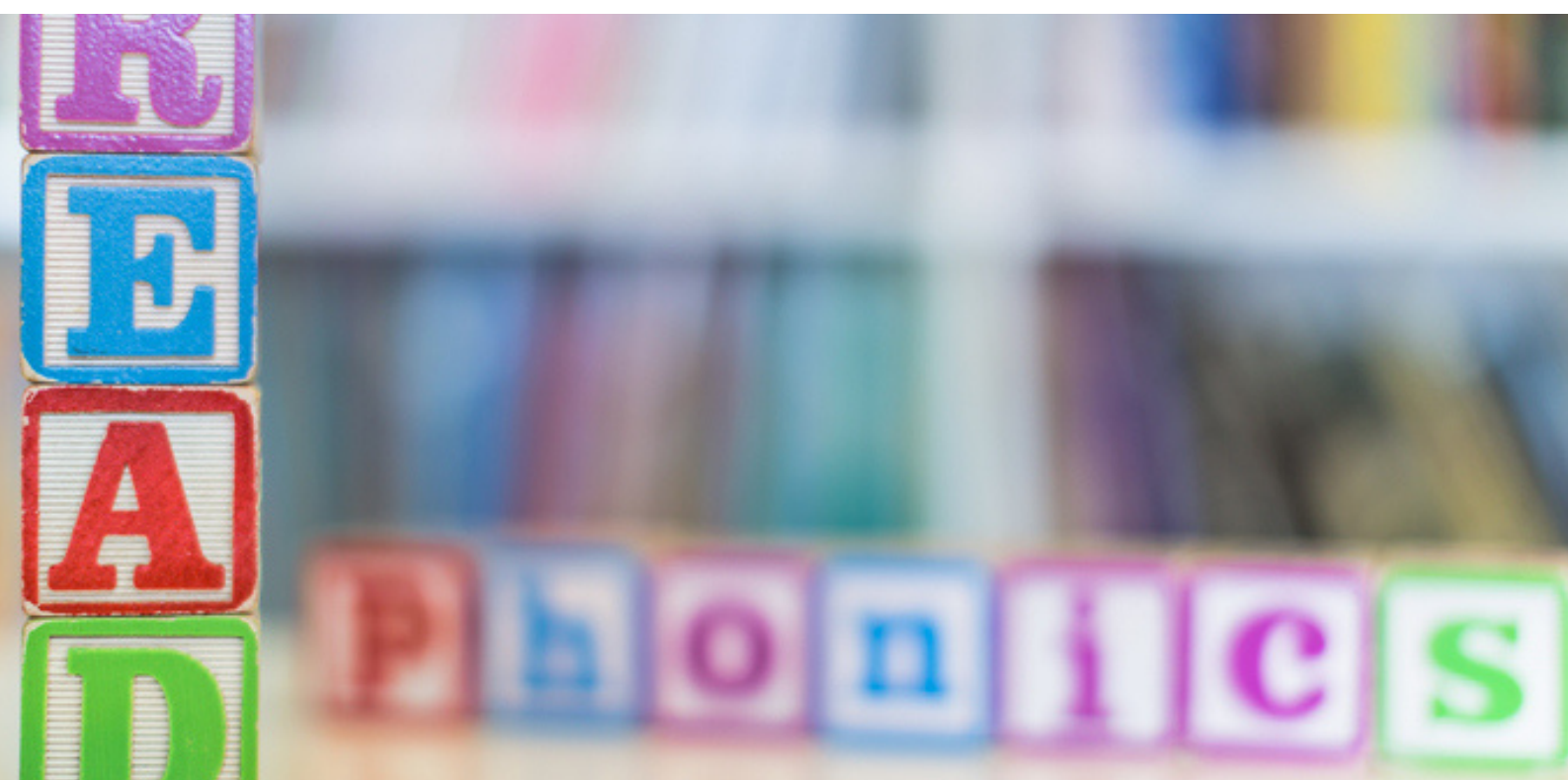# Reading and Phonemics Package (50 Hours)

This comprehensive set of online PD courses helps teachers gain confidence and build skills in reading instruction and phonemics.

The Reading and Phonemics Package includes 10 self-study courses (5 hours each) for a total of 50 hours of professional development.

- Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges
- Early Reading Skills
- English Language Learners
- Guided Reading
- Language Acquisition
- Reading Across the Curriculum
- Reading in Content Areas
- Reading through Technology in the Classroom
- Tackling Tough Text
- Writing and Dyslexia: Overcoming Challenges

Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges

Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

The U.S. Department of Education and others indicate that weak cognitive skills are the source of over 80% of learning problems.

Students approach each task with varying learning tools, called cognitive skills, and these skills determine the quality, speed, and ease with which individuals learn and perform.

This course provides methods for detecting students with weak cognitive skills and tools to strengthen those skills. Teachers will receive understanding, as well as ways to apply development techniques in the classroom. This fun and interactive course includes information about new brain research and how it can impact today's classrooms.

Certificate of Completion

100% Online

Quiz

Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges
Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Unlocking your students' complete learning potential
- The prevalence of learning challenges and the need for effective special education
- The crucial role of teachers and schools in maximizing educational impact
- The importance of cognitive skills for successful living

LESSON 2: Testing

- How tests are administered and interpreted
- The two main types of tests and their different goals
- The role of IQ scores and phonemic awareness
- Common contemporary approaches to diagnosed learning issues and the significance of cognitive skills in making a lasting impact on students' learning

LESSON 3: Cognitive Skills

- Understanding the nature of student learning and the role cognitive skills play in it
- Identifying and accurately assessing cognitive weaknesses
- The features and significance of specific cognitive skills
- The inter-connected nature of skills and specific abilities closely associated with cognitive growth

LESSON 4: The Brain

- Contemporary research on the functioning of the brain
- The role and nature of attention and memory in the learning process
- Understanding dyslexia and effective approaches to it
- The significance of parental involvement and the need for practice

LESSON 5: Effective Training

- The role of the brain in laying essential foundations for learning
- Specific methods to build and strengthen cognitive skills
- The need for effective cognitive training to be non-academic in nature

5
5 Hours of Learning

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Resources & Tools for Professional Learning Plans

Early Reading Skills

Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

The development of early literary and reading skills are the foundation for every student's education. Gain a comprehensive understanding of challenges that hold potential readers back, including phonological impairments and reading disorders. Adopt best science-research-based reading strategies to tackle these including use of explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to reading instruction, developing phonemic awareness, and implementing multisensory intervention strategies.

An incredibly useful tool for teachers looking to unlock their students' reading potential, this course is a must-have for teachers.

Certificate of Completion

100% Online

Quiz

Early Reading Skills
Course Outline

LESSON 1: Language Development

- Stages of reading development
- The role of neuroscience in language development
- Reading wars and speech-language impairments
- Reading disorders and assessment for reading disorders

LESSON 2: Reading Disorders

- Growth mindset approach and "think-aloud" strategy
- Zone of proximal development (ZPD)
- Gradual release of responsibility
- Fostering early literacy at home and play & literacy

LESSON 3: Supporting Early Literacy Skills

- Purposeful conversations and vocabulary
- Academic vocabulary and narratives
- Phonological words and syllable awareness
- Rhyming, onset, rime, and phonemic awareness

LESSON 4: Phonics

- Letter-sound relations and keyword for each letter
- Word building and decoding words
- Letter tiles and elkonin boxes
- Sound-spelling patterns and encoding (spelling)

5

5 Hours of Learning

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Resources & Tools for Professional Learning Plans

English Language Learners in the Classroom

Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Facilitate optimal learning in the classroom by helping English Language Learners feel validated. This course includes a range of strategies and activities that lead to interactions which benefit the four language skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

The Sheltered Instruction (SI) model is presented along with ways to apply this model when teaching English Language Learners. The importance of working collaboratively and ensuring the involvement of parents to enhance learning is emphasized with corresponding strategies. Through a range of research-based findings, teachers are equipped to engage students in "higher order thinking skills" and design a sufficiently challenging curriculum.

Certificate of Completion

100% Online

Quiz

Renew a Teaching License
by Professional Learning Board®

English Language Learners in the Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Welcoming English Language Learners

- Create an environment of acceptance
- Understand the backgrounds of English Language Learners
- Establishing an open channel of communication with parents

LESSON 2: Accommodating a New Culture

- Identify the educational needs of English Language Learners
- Avoiding assumptions
- Conversational and cross-cultural skills
- Comparing cultures and value systems

LESSON 3: Collaboration and Connection

- Approaches for mainstream teachers to effectively serve English Language Learners
- The Sheltered Instruction (SI) model
- Four language skill areas

LESSON 4: Curriculum and Lessons

- Engaging students in "higher order thinking skills" (HOTS)
- Methods of simplification and expansion

5

5 Hours of Learning

Convenient Access: Start Right Away

Resources & Tools for Professional Learning Plans

Guided Reading

Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Guided reading is an instructional approach that creates independent readers and thinkers through strategies that can ensure success, such as selecting appropriate text, reflecting, recapping, self-monitoring, analyzing the text, involving parents, and more.

In this course, teachers will learn how to implement a guided reading program, adapting it to the needs of various kinds of learners and across different subjects, such as math, science and history.

Teachers are provided with resources and activities to engage students, as well as tips and management strategies to best use space, resources, materials, and technology in a manner that students are propelled to greater proficiency.

Certificate of Completion

100% Online

Quiz

Guided Reading
Course Outline

LESSON 1: An Overview

- Integrating guided reading into the classroom curriculum
- The pros and cons of traditional vs guided reading groups
- The foundational principles of guided reading
- Impact of guided reading, and its implementation across grades

LESSON 2: Procedure

- Implement a guided reading program to match individual student needs
- Manzo's 9 Steps to improve reading comprehension
- Strategies to provide differentiated instruction
- Stages of reading and assessing student levels by specific characteristics

LESSON 3: Strategies

- Implementing guided reading by integrating strategies
- Tips for implementing age-appropriate strategies to match student age and intellect
- The scope and implementation of guided reading for ELLs (English Language Learners), CCNs (Complex Communication Needs) and students with special needs
- Understanding the application of guided reading across curriculum
- The challenges faced during guided reading

LESSON 4: Resources and Organization

- Practical tips for effective implementation of the Guided Reading Program
- Managing student behavior
- Learning the key to staying organized
- Assessing the reading level of students
- Using technology effectively for guided reading groups

5

5 Hours
of Learning

Convenient Access:
Start Right Away

Resources & Tools for
Professional Learning Plans

Language Acquisition

Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Delve into theories of the language acquisition process, and uncover practical ways for teachers to help English Language Learners understand lesson content.

Through the strategies and information provided in this course, teachers are equipped to meet students at their specific stage of language learning, create aligned activities, and help students achieve higher levels of linguistic fluency.

The techniques presented cover the acquisition and mastery of literacy skills for students including reading, writing, and dialogue, as well as understanding and supporting English Language Learners at a deeper level.

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Quiz

Language Acquisition

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction to Language Acquisition

- Considering how language is acquired
- Distinction between learning and acquiring a language
- Rules of language
- Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) and Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP)
- The meanings and need for comprehensible input and interactionism
- Age related considerations in the acquisition of a language

LESSON 2: The Acquisition Process

- The stages of language acquisition and the characteristics, duration, and strategies of each; The Silent Period, Early Production, Speech Emergence, Intermediate Proficiency, Advanced Proficiency
- Reception and production of oral language vs. reception
- Reciprocity between oral skills and written skills in second languages

LESSON 3: Literacy Skills - Reading

- Why Literacy skills are essential to school success
- "Balanced Literacy" approach, its principles, and choosing appropriate texts
- The Language Experience Approach for early reading development
- Context-based activities in diverse classrooms
- Top-down approaches to reading and phonics for a balanced literacy program

LESSON 4: Writing and Dialogue

- Shared or modeled writing to benefit writers at early stages
- Free writing vs. a structured writing
- Dialogue journals
- Process writing stages: Prewriting, Drafting, Peer Review, Revising and Publishing
- Instructional Conversation (IC)

5
5 Hours
of Learning

Convenient Access:
Start Right Away

Resources & Tools for
Professional Learning Plans

Reading Across the Curriculum

Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Reading is an essential component of learning. Often, when students struggle with a specific subject matter it is because of poor reading instruction and underdeveloped reading skills.

Full of research-based reading instruction techniques, this course can be used across all content areas and grade levels to improve student achievement. Teacher learn new ideas for motivating students to read more and improve reading comprehension.

This course provides tools, exercises, and additional resources that you can use to practice new skills. Dive into the world of reading instruction and get geared up to make your students proficient readers.

Certificate of Completion

100% Online

Quiz

Reading Across the Curriculum
Course Outline

LESSON 1: Research

- The importance and nature of the 'reading' skill
- Language development in the early years
- Implications of different levels of daily language exposure
- How the brain processes what we already know and have experienced to develop reading skills

LESSON 2: Reading Assessments

- Diversity of students' reading abilities
- The purpose of reading assessments and components
- Common reading assessments and their usage
- Cloze and CARI to measure reading performance

LESSON 3: Basic Reading Strategies

- Basic reading strategies and accessing results
- Essential elements and traditional lesson formats
- Pre-reading, the reading process, and post-reading
- Effective ways to extend the life of the text beyond the lesson

LESSON 4: Reading Across Content Areas

- Scaffolding a common textbook to support varying reading levels using four steps
- Using different books on a common topic or learning objective to meet differing needs
- Question-Answer Relationships (QARS)
- Effectively approaching different structures of texts

5

5 Hours
of Learning

Convenient Access:
Start Right Away

Resources & Tools for
Professional Learning Plans

Reading in Content Areas

Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

The capacity to read, and specifically, the ability to comprehend what we read, enriches all areas of our lives and influences our school performance, quality of life, career choices, leisure, and relationships.

This course explores the latest research to help students develop strong reading comprehension skills. It is full of strategies, illustrations, examples, and practical tools that teachers can use in the classroom. Learn about ways to introduce students to new vocabulary, analyze content, develop perspectives, and use graphic organizers. Teach students to question, draw inferences, visualize, and make predictions. Teachers can use these in a range of subjects, including language arts, science, geography, history, arts, and music

Certificate of Completion

100% Online

Quiz

Reading in Content Areas
Course Outline

LESSON 1: Reading Fundamentals

- What is reading comprehension
- Reading disorders
- Assessments for reading, writing, and spelling
- Reading at home and school
- Growth Mindset approach

LESSON 2: Reading Comprehension

- Reading development
- Strategies in building reading skills
- Working memory
- Vocabulary instruction

LESSON 3: Comprehension Strategies

- A Purpose for reading
- Art of questioning
- Visualization skills and inferencing
- Using self-monitoring and making predictions

LESSON 4: Text Structure

- Why text exists and why we read
- Graphic organizers
- Informational texts
- Digital text

5

5 Hours of Learning

Convenient Access: Start Right Away

Resources & Tools for Professional Learning Plans

Reading through Technology in the Classroom

Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Reading is an essential skill that is central to education. In today's classroom, students use and access information from a variety of sources, not just books. The skills of evaluating content, collaboration and peer-review become an important part of reading.

Full of activities, strategies, and templates, this course introduces creative strategies for reading instruction that incorporate technology. Teachers discover devices and techniques which can be used to enhance reading in the classroom.

Certificate of Completion

100% Online

Quiz

Reading through Technology in the Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Introducing technology in the classroom
- Technology tools
- Interactive whiteboards and clickers
- Mobile devices and computers
- Bring your own device (BYOD)
- Important terms: backups and ergonomics

LESSON 2: Digital Reading Technologies

- Reading on an e-book
- E-book reader explained
- E-book reader technologies
- Tablet based e-book readers
- App based e-book readers
- Finding e-books
- Reading on the Internet
- Using digital libraries
- Virtual book clubs

LESSON 3: Technology Supported Reading

- Pre-reading strategies
- During reading strategies
- After reading strategies

LESSON 4: Collaborative Reading Through Technology

- Collaborative reading using technology
- Tools for collaborative reading
- Collaborative reading strategies
- Collaborative activities

5
5 Hours
of Learning

Convenient Access:
Start Right Away

Resources & Tools for
Professional Learning Plans

Tackling Tough Text

Standards:

his course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Reading and comprehension are essential skills required for academic growth and professional excellence in all fields.

Students may come across vocabulary, phrases, and writing styles that they find difficult to read. As students progress to higher grades, they are exposed to non-fiction reading material that is of a higher level of difficulty across all subjects. How can you help your students read and comprehend tough text, developing them into strong readers?

This course includes practical strategies on tackling tough text, with a focus on the Reading Comprehension Checklist. This checklist integrates research-based reading strategies across all subject areas.

Certificate of Completion

100% Online

Quiz

Tackling Tough Text
Course Outline

LESSON 1: Comprehension

- The importance of building students' self-efficacy to ensure learning
- The need for appropriate background knowledge and reading strategies
- Strategies for teaching reading comprehension
- Go beyond traditional teaching models toward participatory literary practices
- The Reading Comprehension Checklist

LESSON 2: The Checklist

- The roadmap to activate students' background knowledge
- Understanding essential steps while working with the checklist, to ensure an internalization of the reading comprehension process
- The value of pre-reading in making stronger readers, and the four steps involved

LESSON 3: Working with Questions

- Understanding how to label and analyze questions that accompany the text

LESSON 4a: Time to Read

- Beginning the final part of the checklist; the actual reading of the text
- The process of identifying and underlining five key words in the text
- The recommended sequence of answering questions
- The importance of emphasizing students' self-confidence

LESSON 4b: Evaluating the Checklist

- The practical aspects and benefits of using the checklist in the classroom
- Using the evaluation in the checklist to identify areas where students need more help
- Understanding the need for tough text levels and the significance of the checklist

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5
5 Hours of Learning

Convenient Access: Start Right Away

Resources & Tools for Professional Learning Plans

Writing and Dyslexia: Overcoming Challenges

Standards:

This course aligns all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Reading and writing are crucial aspects of student learning and critical life skills. Teaching students to read and write can be layered and challenging, especially since individual learners require teachers to adapt a range of teaching methodologies and approaches.

This course explores how writing challenges in the classroom may show up, including learning conditions (such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyspraxia) that may make it difficult for children to read and write, and a variety of teaching and evaluation strategies that can help all children — regardless of their level —to become competent readers and writers. An incredibly useful resource for teachers everywhere, this course is an invaluable tool for mastery of the art, craft, and science of writing.

Certificate of Completion

100% Online

Quiz

Writing and Dyslexia: Overcoming Challenges

Course Outline

Lesson 1: Writing Challenges

- The importance of writing
- Dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyspraxia: symptoms and diagnosis
- Decoding and encoding challenges
- Handwriting and other writing challenges

Lesson 2: Transcription Challenges

- Spelling
- Morphology
- Phonics
- Keyboarding

Lesson 3: Cognitive Functions in Writing

- Writing challenges
- Memory, attention, and concentration
- Sequencing, planning, and organization
- Strategies to improve writing

Lesson 4: Sharpening Writing Skills

- Pre-writing
- Initial draft
- Revising
- Assessment

5
5 Hours
of Learning

Convenient Access:
Start Right Away

Resources & Tools for
Professional Learning Plans