

## Foundational Reading Resources

Why explicit phonics matters

- National Reading Panel (2000)  
Explicit, systematic phonics instruction improves reading outcomes.
- Structured Literacy (SOR)  
Clear modeling, guided practice, feedback, and cumulative review.

➔ *Explicit instruction is an equity lever, it removes guesswork.*

## Culturally Relevant & Sustaining Pedagogy

Why identity matters in literacy

- Gloria Ladson-Billings  
Academic success + cultural competence + critical consciousness.
- Django Paris  
Sustain students' language and culture—don't replace it.
- Zaretta Hammond  
Engagement and cognition are strengthened when culture is honored.

➔ *Culture shapes how students engage with reading.*

✨ JOY + High Expectations

What learning should feel like

- Marva Collins  
Explicit instruction, unwavering belief, and cultural affirmation.
- Visible Learning (Hattie)  
Clarity, feedback, and celebration of growth matter.

Joy in phonics looks like:

- ✓ Choral response
- ✓ Call-and-response
- ✓ Collective celebration
- ✓ Affirming language

➔ *Joy increases persistence and confidence.*

### Classroom-Ready Literacy Practices

Use what you already have

- Maintain scope & sequence
- Keep explicit routines intact
- Embed relevance in:
  - Names & examples
  - Oral language routines
  - Meaning-making moments

➔ *Adapt the delivery, not the curriculum.*

### Family & Community Connections

- Honor home language as an asset
- Share phonics routines in family-friendly ways
- Invite stories, language, and lived experiences

➔ *Literacy grows when school and community connect.*

## Reflective Questions

- Is the phonics instruction explicit and clear?
- Where does culture show up intentionally?
- How do students experience joy and affirmation?
- Does this lesson meet Act 20 *and* honor identity?

## Key Takeaway

Strong readers are built through explicit instruction.

Confident readers are built when instruction affirms who students are.

Equity happens when we do both—intentionally.

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