

Course Title: ***Building Foundational Skills: Phonics, Word Study, and*** _____

Comprehension

Instructor: **Dr. Tim Ham** _____

Course Description:

Building Foundational Skills: Phonics, Word Study, and Comprehension is an interactive, online, and in-person professional development course designed to guide teachers, literacy coaches, and reading specialists of students in **grades 3–12** to build the foundational skills students need to be successful readers. The six online sessions focus on deepening knowledge of effective decoding instruction and the benefits of using an intervention program to accelerate reading success for older students. Learners will enhance their understanding and gain strategies to teach foundational skills, including phonemic awareness, breaking words into syllables, and identifying morphemes, while emphasizing word meaning.

- **Session 1** provides an overview of the building blocks that lead to reading comprehension, including phonemic awareness, phonics, and automaticity.
- **Session 2** examines strategies, resources, and assessments to successfully implement an intervention program for older students who demonstrate gaps in foundational reading skills.
- **Session 3** explores components of effective phonics instruction and provides strategies to teach consonants and vowels.
- **Session 4** focuses on how to teach the six syllable types and guide students to use vowel spots to break apart and comprehend long words.
- **Session 5** introduces the importance of teaching morphemes and provides strategies to help students use word parts to enhance comprehension.
- **Session 6** examines the connection between decoding and word meaning in order to help accelerate reading success for older students.

The online sessions include lesson plans and classroom resources for integrating the course content seamlessly into classroom literacy programs or subject-specific curriculums.

Course Objective/Goals:

Upon completing this course, participants will be able to:

- Define key terms in foundational reading and understand the importance of teaching foundational skills to older, struggling readers.
- Implement an effective intervention program that meets the individual needs of older readers.
- Use multiple strategies to teach phonemic awareness and phonics to support reading comprehension and spelling skills.
- Teach students how to identify the six types of syllables and use strategies to decode multisyllabic words.
- Identify and plan lessons that enhance students' understanding of morphemes and guide them to use word parts to make meaning.
- Integrate effective word meaning instruction into phonics lessons to improve decoding and comprehension.

Course Outline:

1. Understanding the Importance of Decoding

- 1.1 Exploring the Foundations of Language
- 1.2 Understanding Phonemic Awareness
- 1.3 Understanding Phonics
- 1.4 Becoming Automatic With Words

CheckPoint
Your Turn

2. Implementing an Intervention Program

- 2.1 Guiding Principles of Effective Intervention
- 2.2 Assessing Fluency, Phonics, and Phonemic Awareness
- 2.3 Reaching Readers at Different Levels
- 2.4 Strengthening Spelling Skills with Phonics
- 2.5 Creating an Effective Learning Environment

CheckPoint
Your Turn

3. Teaching Phonics for Reading Success

- 3.1 Implementing Decoding Instruction
- 3.2 Teaching an Effective Phonics Lesson
- 3.3 Teaching Consonants: Auditory and Visual Discrimination
- 3.4 Teaching Vowels: Contrasting Long and Short
- 3.5 Teaching Vowels: Contrasting Short Vowels
- 3.6 Teaching Segmenting: Words Into Sounds

CheckPoint
Your Turn

4. Breaking Words Into Syllables

- 4.1 Getting to Know the Syllable Types
- 4.2 Teaching the Concept of Syllables
- 4.3 Teaching Closed and Open Syllables
- 4.4 Teaching Other Syllable Types
- 4.5 Leading Whole-Group Syllable Practice

4.6 Planning Syllable Activities for Small Group

CheckPoint

Your Turn

5. Identifying Morphemes to Unlock Meaning

5.1 Breaking Words Into Morphemes

5.2 Teaching Prefixes

5.3 Teaching Suffixes and Inflectional Endings

5.4 Teaching Base-Word Changes

5.5 Teaching Greek and Latin Roots

5.6 Teaching Morphological Word Families

CheckPoint

Your Turn

6. Improving Comprehension With Word Meaning

6.1 Strengthening Decoding With Word Meaning

6.2 Planning Effective Word Meaning Lessons

6.3 Deepening Word Knowledge for Comprehension

6.4 Supporting English Language Learners

6.5 Endnote

CheckPoint

Method of Evaluating Student's Performance:

End-of-Course Assessment: The final assessment for this course will assess your ability to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the course material and your final grade will be based on this assessment as follows:

Grade	Score
A	18-20
B	16-17
C	14-15
D	12-13
F	11 and below

Textbooks and/or Other Materials:

All instructional materials are provided by Scholastic Red, professional development for raising student achievement

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