

# THE SCIENCE OF READING



The Science of Reading is an interdisciplinary body of research about reading that helps explain why some people have difficulty, how to most effectively assess and teach reading, and how to improve.

## WHAT IS IT?



It *is* based on 50+ years of scientifically based research with a preponderance of evidence proving — and disproving — theories about how children best learn to read.



It *is* an approach to teaching reading that centers around 5 Big Ideas: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.



It *is* ever-evolving, with new research and evidence all the time. As populations, communities, and approaches evolve, so should practices and methods of teaching.

## WHAT ISN'T IT?



The Science of Reading is *not* a specific program, intervention, or product you can buy.



It's *not* only about phonics. While important, phonics is only one of the 5 Big Ideas of the Science of Reading.



It is *not* considered done." As with any science, there is always more to learn. Researchers, teachers, and families can work together to bring the best research into classrooms.

For more information, visit [improvingliteracy.org](https://improvingliteracy.org).



National Center on Improving Literacy

The research reported here is funded by a grant to the National Center on Improving Literacy from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, in partnership with the Office of Special Education Programs (Award #: H283D210004). The opinions or policies expressed are those of the authors and do not represent views of OESE, OSEP, or the U.S. Department of Education. You should not assume endorsement by the Federal government. Copyright © 2024 National Center on Improving Literacy.