

# Science of Reading Instruction

A brief overview of how Saxon Reading Foundations supports the essential elements of literacy

**GRADES K-2** 





#### Saxon Reading Foundations K-2 is a

success-oriented program that explicitly teaches phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency in a way that is supported by scientific research and has been proven effective by years of classroom success. Saxon® utilizes a research-based approach to teaching foundational reading skills, incorporating the latest principles from cognitive science and proven methods in early literacy instruction. This approach has consistently proven to be effective for students of diverse ability levels, ensuring success in developing their literacy skills.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- **03** Effective Foundational Skills Instruction Grounded in the Latest Research
- **04** Explicit and Systematic Phonics Instruction
- 05 Phonological and Phonemic Awareness
- 06 Phonics
- 08 Fluency
- 10 Vocabulary
- **11** Comprehension

Scan below to learn more about Saxon Reading Foundations' efficacy in this detailed research document.



## Effective Foundational Skills Instruction Grounded in the Latest Research

The Structured Literacy Framework underscores the importance of developing proficient readers by ensuring students have a strong command of both language comprehension and structure, along with word recognition skills. *Saxon Reading Foundations*<sup>™</sup> focuses on the elements of word recognition to build language comprehension, fostering the development of skilled readers and nurturing critical thinking abilities in students.



The image, used with permission from the Publisher, originally appeared in the following publication: Scarborough, H. S. (2001). Connecting early language and literacy to later reading (dis)abilities: Evidence, theory, and practice. In S. Neuman & D. Dickinson (Eds.), *Handbook of early literacy research* (Vol. 1, pp. 97–110). Guilford Press.

### Explicit and Systematic Phonics Instruction

Saxon Reading Foundations builds foundational skills with a unique, evidence-based method. The program provides systematic, explicit, incremental, and cumulative instruction with application and continual review across early literacy with a specific focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, spelling, and fluency. Built-in instructional support and optional, detailed scripting provides a scaffold as new concepts are introduced, making it easy to simultaneously teach phonics, spelling, and handwriting.

Each grade includes a grade-level scope and sequence that identifies the skills taught in that grade's instruction and the order in which the skills are taught. This gives teachers an at-a-glance view of the skills that are addressed each week, and how these skills build on each other.

activities tha	sson begins with t review previous rial and prepare	ily	Options for Di Small-group ac of each lesson by supporting, extending instr	ctivities at th support stue reinforcing,	ne end (Pho dents New or build	Concepts nics/Print Awareness) skills taught each week. Skills from simpler to more complex wing a logical, sequential order. • Sight Words New Increment sections introduce si decodable text reinforces understand daily Sight Word review in the Lesson helps students build automaticity in			nt sections introduce sigh xt reinforces understandir ord review in the Lesson V	nding, and on Warm-Up
	LESSON		LESSON WARM-UP		DIFFERENTIATION	NEW INCREMENT		APPLICATIONS AND CONTINUAL REVIEW		
	LESSON TITLE	ALPHABET ACTIVITY	DAILY LETTER, SPELLING, AND SOUND REVIEW	PHONEMIC/ PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS	OPTIONS FOR DIFFERENTIATION	NEW CONCEPTS (PHONICS/PRINT AWARENESS)		REVIEW	READERS	
	<b>13</b> Blends	Name each letter in alphabetical order	Daily Letter and Sound Review • Practice letter recognition • Practice affices • Practice letter sounds • Practice sight words Spelling Sound Review • Spell teter sounds • Spell words	New Concept: • Blend onsets and rimes to form simple words	Support: identify which word in a pair begins with a consonant blend Reinforce: build consonant blends and add rimes to make words Extend: hear words and quickly read and identify the matching printed word	Blands     The blends pl, sl, sn, sp, spl, and st		<ul> <li>Identify vowels and consonants</li> <li>Blend sounds</li> <li>Read vc and v→ words</li> </ul>		
	<b>14</b> The Letter D	Use kinesthetic response     Practice the alphabet	Daily Letter and Sound Review • Practice letter recognition • Practice affixes • Practice sight words Spelling Sound Review • Spell letter sounds • Spell words	Review Concept: • Blend onsets and rimes to form simple words	Support: learn to remember which direction lowarcase d faces Reinforce: identify and read words with the letter d in context Extend: identify letters by their sounds	Reading and spelling consonant d     Countain marks     Speaker tags	said	Identify vowels and consonants     Blend sounds     Review sentences     Identify capital and lowercase     Identify capital and lowercase     Identify capital and lowercase     Identify capital v→ words	Decodable Reader 2: • Plan and Toss	
	<b>15</b> Assessment	Use kinesthetic response Practice the alphabet Identify vowels	Daily Letter and Sound Review • Practice letter recognition • Practice letter sounds Spelling Sound Review • Spell letter sounds	New Concept: • Segment simple words into onsets and rimes	Targeted remediation activities from the Resources for Differentiation Guide	• Apostrophe			Fluency Reader 1: • Level A: Spin Spin • Level C: <u>A Top and</u> an Ant	
	<b>16</b> The Letter F	Review vowels     Review the alphabet	Daily Letter and Sound Review • Practice letter recognition • Practice effices • Practice letter sounds • Practice sight words <b>Spelling Sound Review</b> • Spell letter sounds • Spell words	Review Concept: • Segment simple words into onsets and rimes	Support: distinguish between words that start with // and words that do not <b>Reinforce:</b> spell and change words with letter f <b>Extend:</b> spell words with letter f	Reading and spelling consonant f     The blend fl	of	Read and spell words with blends sn, sp, and st Read and spell words with suffix-s Read ic and iC-a words Identify voiced and unvoiced sounds Identify voivels and consonants Blend sounds Review capital and lowercase Review rends		

Alphabet Activity These activities include reciting the alphabet, alphabetizing, playing alphabet games, and learning about accents and syllabication.

#### Daily Letter, Spelling, and Sound Review

Deck cards build and review skills including letter-sound correspondence, review of learned sound-spellings, review of sight words, and review of affixes and meaning.

#### Phonemic/Phonological Awareness

Updated phonological and phonemic awareness activities better align to the Science of Reading. This includes key skills such as identifying and manipulating words, syllables, and sounds in oral language, including onsets and rimes, blending, segmenting, and more. Phonological and phonemic awareness are essential pre-reading skills.

#### Readers

Worksheets allowFlustudents to applyRewhat they havewinthey have learnedthrand teacherscarto track students'phdaily progress.

Review

Fluency and Decodable Readers provide children with reading opportunities throughout the year so they can apply and practice their phonics and fluency skills.

## **Application and Continual Review**

#### **Continual Review Leads to Success**

The Application and Continual Review section within each lesson seamlessly integrates newly acquired skills with previously mastered ones, ensuring comprehensive instruction and regular concept review. This purposeful, guided practice ensures all students get the repeated exposure to concepts they need to succeed. The program also offers opportunities for independent practice both in the classroom and at home with worksheets, giving students the necessary practice to achieve mastery. Review in *Saxon Reading Foundations* is spiraled and uses spaced repetition to ensure students retain the skills they re learning.



#### Boardwork

Boardwork is a valuable tool for teachers, aiding skill reinforcement and independent practice. This interactive activity provides ongoing review and aligns with worksheet concepts. Teachers can guide students through structured reviews using coded examples. Worksheets facilitate knowledge application and daily progress monitoring. Designed for whole-group instruction, they also serve as homework. Completed in class or at home, they can be returned the following day.

## Phonological and Phonemic Awareness

### **Explicit Instruction**

Saxon Reading Foundations instruction ensures that students develop the phonological and phonemic awareness skills that are critical to reading acquisition. The program follows the gradual release of responsibility model, includes opportunities for incorporating multisensory instruction to engage all the senses, and provides immediate corrective feedback.

Phonological and phonemic awareness activities are integrated into all Kindergarten lessons and the first 70 lessons in Grade 1. The *Saxon* Phonological and Phonemic Awareness instruction in Kindergarten and Grade 1 now includes a research-based Scope and Sequence for instruction, explicit "I Do / We Do / You Do" gradual release in the activities, a new Phonological Awareness Review Deck for activities in Kindergarten, and new instructional routines to better help both students and teachers. The Phonemic/Phonological Awareness instruction in Grade 2 is comprehensive and covers a range of fundamental to advanced skills.





### **Articulation Support**

Each Spelling Card, available in Saxon Reading Foundations' **Review Decks**, includes an **Articulation Support** photo of a student modeling the mouth position for the sound featured on the card. The cards contain text instructions for teachers, providing guidance for their students on how to accurately position their mouths and articulate each sound. This not only supports students in learning the sounds but also provides additional multisensory, kinesthetic support for beginning readers.

### Phonics

Saxon Reading Foundations provides explicit and systematic phonics instruction, incorporating all components of the Orton-Gillingham language triangle (auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learning). The program teaches important phonics principles like letters, sounds, spelling, and sight words through engaging, multisensory activities. For example, students see the letter or letters, hear the sound, and write and say the sound pattern.

Each lesson introduces a manageable phonics increment or concept providing instruction on the sounds, corresponding letters or letter patterns, or the process of combining these letters to form words, which is consistently reinforced and reviewed in subsequent lessons. By breaking the content down into small, easily digestible chunks, *Saxon Reading Foundations* eases cognitive load for students, making them more successful readers, and allowing them time to digest concepts before new ones are introduced. This approach enhances reading and spelling skills, builds confidence, and prepares students for more advanced words.



## Phonics (continued)

The Review Decks in *Saxon Reading Foundations* foster skill mastery through progressive learning and ongoing concept review. Students rotate through each deck for regular focused review, with new cards added as they acquire new skills.

These decks are used for daily flashcard activities covering important phonics concepts like lettersound correspondence, review of known spelling patterns, identifying the accent in multisyllabic words, building automaticity while reading sight words, and review of affixes/basic morphology. Kindergarten focuses on the letter, spelling, picture, and sight word Review Decks. Grades 1 and 2 have the full 6 Review Decks.



**Letter Cards** are a valuable tool for reviewing and reinforcing letter names and recognition of letters and letter clusters in written form.



**Sight Word Cards** review some common words that do not follow phonics the phonics rules. Students will build automaticity through regular practice reading these irregular words.



**Picture Cards** showcase illustrations that depict keywords, serving as visual aids to help students recall specific letter sounds.



**Spelling Cards** are designed to instruct students in regular spelling patterns associated with common sounds.



Alphabet / Accent Cards aid in accenting practice without sounding out new words. The cards feature small alphabet sequences that reinforce alphabetical order.



**Affix Cards** serve as a helpful tool for reviewing prefixes and suffixes, enhancing vocabulary and comprehension skills.

## Fluency

*Saxon's* supportive fluency instruction provides guidance for teaching fluency, including modeling fluent reading, guiding students through repeated readings, and providing many opportunities for independent reading to build confidence.

**Fluency Readers** in *Saxon Reading Foundations* provide students with explicit, systematic practice to help develop reading fluency. These fiction and nonfiction readers allow students to practice reading at their own reading level and provide activities that can be used 1:1 teacher:student or during small-group learning opportunities. All text in the Fluency Readers is fully controlled and only contains decodable text and sight words that have been taught already. The fluency readers, designed for use in whole class, small group, or individual instruction, are differentiated to allow students to practice their fluency skills at an appropriate reading level.



#### **Fluency Readers**

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All Fluency Readers feature only text that is decodable based on where the text is specifically introduced within the year's instruction. Fluency Readers are differentiated to ensure fluency instruction meets students where they are.

### Supportive Fluency Instruction Develops Early Literacy Skills

#### **Fluency Readers**

Saxon Reading Foundations offers comprehensive fluency instruction to support teachers in their teaching of fluency. This includes demonstrating fluent reading through modeling, guiding students in repeated readings, and providing independent reading opportunities. Fluency Masters, which assist teachers in leading practice sessions and enhancing students' word recognition abilities while promoting fluent reading, can be found online on Heinemann Flight.



#### Fluency Passage Masters

Fluency Masters, available online on Heinemann Flight, provide teacher-led practice and help improve students' word recognition skills while facilitating fluent reading.

#### Fluency Assessments

Formal and Informal Fluency Assessments help teachers measure students' reading abilities, identify areas for reinforcement, and monitor their progress. Teachers may assess students informally at any time by listening to them read and recording their observations.

Formal Fluency Assessments follow a beginning-, middle-, and end-of-the-year assessment structure, and include clear rubrics against which to evaluate each student in order to monitor progress and set learning goals.

The Formal and Informal Fluency Assessments are available online on Heinemann Flight.



## Vocabulary

Saxon Reading Foundations focuses on building vocabulary skills by establishing a strong base in phonics and fluency. This approach enables students to expand their vocabulary through independent reading. The program strategically introduces and regularly reinforces sight words and high-frequency words. It also provides extensive word lists for reading and spelling numerous decodable words and sight words. Teachers can use these lists to offer relevant examples for words aligned with each lesson's skill emphasis.

Students regularly review affixes using **Affix Cards** in the Review Decks during the daily Warm-Up. This practice helps them recognize common prefixes and suffixes, review their meanings, and understand how these morphological parts change the meaning of root words. By providing this solid morphological base, *Saxon* promotes greater understanding and recognition of word parts that enables students to read and spell new words, and to seamlessly incorporate new vocabulary words that share similarities with those they have already acquired.



**Review Deck: Affix Cards** 

## Vocabulary (continued)

### **NEW!** Morphology Extension Lessons

New Morphology Extension Lessons help students learn how word parts can change the meaning of words and how to build words and how to use affixes appropriately. Morphology instruction is critical to the development of students' vocabulary as well as their ability to decode and encode words. Grade 2 Morphology Extensions emphasize reading and spelling words with affixes and are built upon the affix instruction in the *Saxon Reading Foundations* Grade 2 lessons. This supplemental instruction, available online on Heinemann Flight, bridges phonics and vocabulary. Students learn to read and spell words with affixes to support their understanding of how affixes change the meaning of root words. Each of the nineteen extensions come with student practice sheets that focus on decodable words in alignment with the Grade 2 lessons, and include guidance on when to incorporate the instruction within the Scope and Sequence.



## Comprehension

Saxon Reading Foundations supports comprehension development and builds fluency through text-based practice, reading strategies, and assessments. Saxon's fluency instruction encompasses various elements such as print awareness and previews of story vocabulary, ensuring students are prepared to understand what they read. The Fluency Instruction Booklet provides guidance for teaching fluency, including modeling fluent reading, guiding students through repeated readings, and providing opportunities for independent reading. Assessments measure students' ability to comprehend main ideas, infer meaning, identify details, and draw conclusions.

Students also have numerous opportunities to read with meaning, utilizing specially designed Decodable Readers that support phonics instruction. The series employs controlled vocabulary, focusing only on letters, sounds, and sight words that students have already learned and reinforces understanding.

"**Understanding the Story**" sections, taught during whole-group instruction, aim to develop comprehension skills, enhance students' ability to comprehend and appreciate different type of texts. These sections follow the reading of a story or passage and focus on exploring and analyzing various elements of the text and may also include vocabulary exercises to expand word knowledge. In Grades 1 and 2, worksheets, homework, and assessments incorporate decodable passages with comprehension questions, enabling students to independently grasp the meaning of the stories they read.







To learn more about how Saxon Reading Foundations can effectively help K-2 students become successful readers, please visit <u>hein.pub/reading-foundations</u>

