Supporting Resources

This is a companion resource to the February 2024 webinar, Supporting Practice Guide Implementation: Preparing Young Children for School, Language and Literacy Recommendations, the second in the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI) Research to Practice Spotlight Series (https://ncsi.wested.org/research-to-practice-webinar-series/). The following open-access materials support the selection and implementation of evidence-based early literacy instruction and intervention programs or strategies. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list but a sample of resources that may help expand and apply what you learned from the webinar.

What Works Clearinghouse Practice Guides

The webinar overviewed the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) practice guide, Preparing Young Children for School. Practice guides include recommendations for educators and schools based on research, practitioner experience, and expert opinions. For other literacy-related practice guides, see the WWC Practice Guides page.

National Early Literacy Panel Report and Related Resources

Developing Early Literacy: Report of the National Early Literacy Panel examines the implications of instructional practices used with children from birth through age 5. The National Institute for Literacy built upon these findings in Learning to Talk and Listen: An Oral Language Resource for Early Childhood Caregivers, and Early Beginnings: Early Literacy Knowledge and Instruction, a guide for early childhood administrators and professional development providers.

Where to Review Evidence on Early Literacy Interventions

The WWC Find What Works tool lets you search for relevant practice guides, intervention reports, and reviews of individual studies. Basic filters include topic (e.g., literacy) and grade band (e.g., preschool). From there, more advanced filters can be chosen, including publication date, evidence tier, and populations (i.e., children and youth with disabilities, English learners).

The National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII) tools charts help educators and families become informed consumers when selecting rigorous assessments and interventions that meet students’ specific needs. The NCII Academic Intervention Tools Chart summarizes basic information about interventions and the technical
rigor of supporting studies. You can filter by subject (e.g., reading); grade band (e.g., preschool); various aspects of the intervention; and whether available data have been disaggregated by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or language status.

Other Early Literacy Resources

The Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL) Practices Guides for Practitioners provide engaging activities that can be used by early childhood educators, including interventionists, to promote infant, toddler, and preschool literacy development.

Regional Educational Laboratory Southeast has developed two resources to support professional learning communities related to early literacy. Developing Early Literacy Professional Learning Communities is an interactive brief to help state education agencies, districts, and early childhood centers implement evidence-based emergent literacy instruction. Professional Learning Community: Emergent Literacy is a suite of participant and facilitator materials with four modules addressing print knowledge, phonological awareness, vocabulary, and oral language.

Where Can State Education Agencies Get More Help?

If you work at a state education agency and would like support with your efforts to improve reading instruction and intervention for students with disabilities, please reach out to your NCSI technical assistance facilitator. You also can submit a question or request for support through our Ask the NCSI web form.