Reading instruction continuum

Emina McLean (2020)

Whole Language
Reading is natural.
Learning large banks of sight words
Guessing strategies and cues for reading
Instruction is neither systematic nor explicit
A lot of exposure to rich literature
No phonics instruction

Structured Literacy
Reading must be explicitly taught.
An explicit literacy curriculum grounded in The Simple View of Reading and the five key domains (phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and reading comprehension)
Instruction is explicit & systematic
Detailed and systematic scope and sequence for each domain
Lessons are teacher led and highly structured
A lot of exposure to rich literature through being read to
Synthetic phonics
Practising decoding skills through reading decodable books before transitioning to independent texts

Balanced Literacy

Emina McLean (2020)