

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

