

Kindergarten Literacy

The literacy curriculum supports a balanced, comprehensive, and research-based instructional model that reflects the Vermont Framework of Standards. This Framework focuses on reading, writing, listening and speaking. It also emphasizes the importance of differentiated instruction, high expectations, interactive approaches, and flexible groupings to support student performance. These instructional approaches are combined with ongoing, systematic assessment of student learning.

Below are the instructional approaches that are used during classroom literacy.

Centers

Centers are facilitated small group activities for students to focus on literacy skills. During centers students practice a variety of skills using hands on activities, games and books. Center activities change on a weekly basis based on student needs, skills and themes.

Guided Reading

Reading groups are small teacher-lead groups assigned based on specific need and ability, where the primary focus is on phonetic awareness, word identification skills and comprehension strategies. This guided reading instruction takes place during center time.

Reading

Throughout the school day students are exposed to books in a variety of ways. Students will be read to everyday, during which time they will learn a variety of strategies to discuss books. The classroom will foster a love of reading through a focus on a reading corner, and literacy based science and social studies themes.

Writing

Kindergarteners begin the year focusing on how to correctly form letters, write their names and other commonly used words. Throughout the year students use both words and picture drawings to discuss a book, tell a story or express an idea. This foundation will prepare students to be successful with the *6+1 Trait*® Writing framework and *Writing for Understanding* framework in the first and second grade cluster.

Foundations

Basic skills in learning to read, write and spell are related to the understanding of how sounds connect to letters in both spoken words and written words. The *Wilson Foundations* program teaches a foundation of basic literacy skills for students to become lifelong readers and writers. A 20 to 30-minute daily *Foundations* routine is incorporated into classroom literacy time.