FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS AND TERMS RELATED TO THEM

Term	Definition	Examples and Extensions
Alphabet Knowledge	Connecting letter names, sounds, and forms	"The letter *B* spells /b/, like at the beginning of *ball*."
Fluency	Reading with accuracy, automaticity, and prosody	Reading like an adult with the appropriate speed and expression for the particular text
Morphology	Identifying and manipulating morphemes, the smallest units of meaning in language	"The word *helpful* can be broken into two parts, both for meaning and for decoding: *help* and *ful*."
Oral Language	Producing and comprehending spoken language, including vocabulary and grammar	Everything related to understanding and using spoken language
Sound-Spelling Knowledge	Knowing how to represent sounds in oral language with spellings	"The letters *o-u* can spell the sound /ow/ like in the word *loud*."
Phonics	Instruction in sound-spelling relationships	Practices that relate sounds to spellings to read and spell words
Graphemes	Written representation of a sound	Graphemes include individual letters and combinations of letters that spell phonemes.
Phonological Awareness	Identifying and manipulating units of sound in oral language	Manipulating words, word parts, and phonemes
Phonemic Awareness	A subset of phonological awareness—identifying and manipulating phonemes, the smallest unit of sound in oral language	"The word *dog* has three phonemes: /d/ /o/ /g/."

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Term	Definition	Examples and Extensions
Phonological Memory	Holding information in short-term memory	Remembering the sounds in spoken language
Print Concepts	Understanding how to navigate print and that it holds meaning	"We start reading at the top left of the page."
Rapid Automatic Naming	Ability to rapidly identify a series of objects	Quickly identifying a sequence of random letters
Visual Processing	Ability to perceive, analyze, synthesize, and think with visual patterns	Discriminating visual symbols (such as letters)
Vocabulary	Having knowledge of words and their meanings	"The word *trustworthy* describes someone who tells the truth and is honest."
Word Recognition	Identifying a word (automatic, effortless, accurate recognition is the goal)	The goal: seeing the word *hot* and knowing it is the word *hot* immediately.
Decoding	One critical way to recognize words, using knowledge about sound-spelling correspondences	"/sh/ /o/ /p/ shop."
High-Frequency Words	The most common words in written English	Words such as *a*, *the*, *in*, *to*, *by*, and *for*