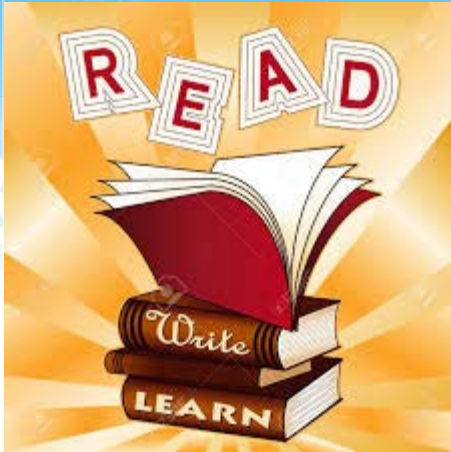


Balanced Literacy



Components of Balanced Literacy

Read Aloud

Shared Reading

Independent Reading

Guided Reading

Word Study

Modeled Writing

Shared Writing

Interactive Writing

Guided Writing

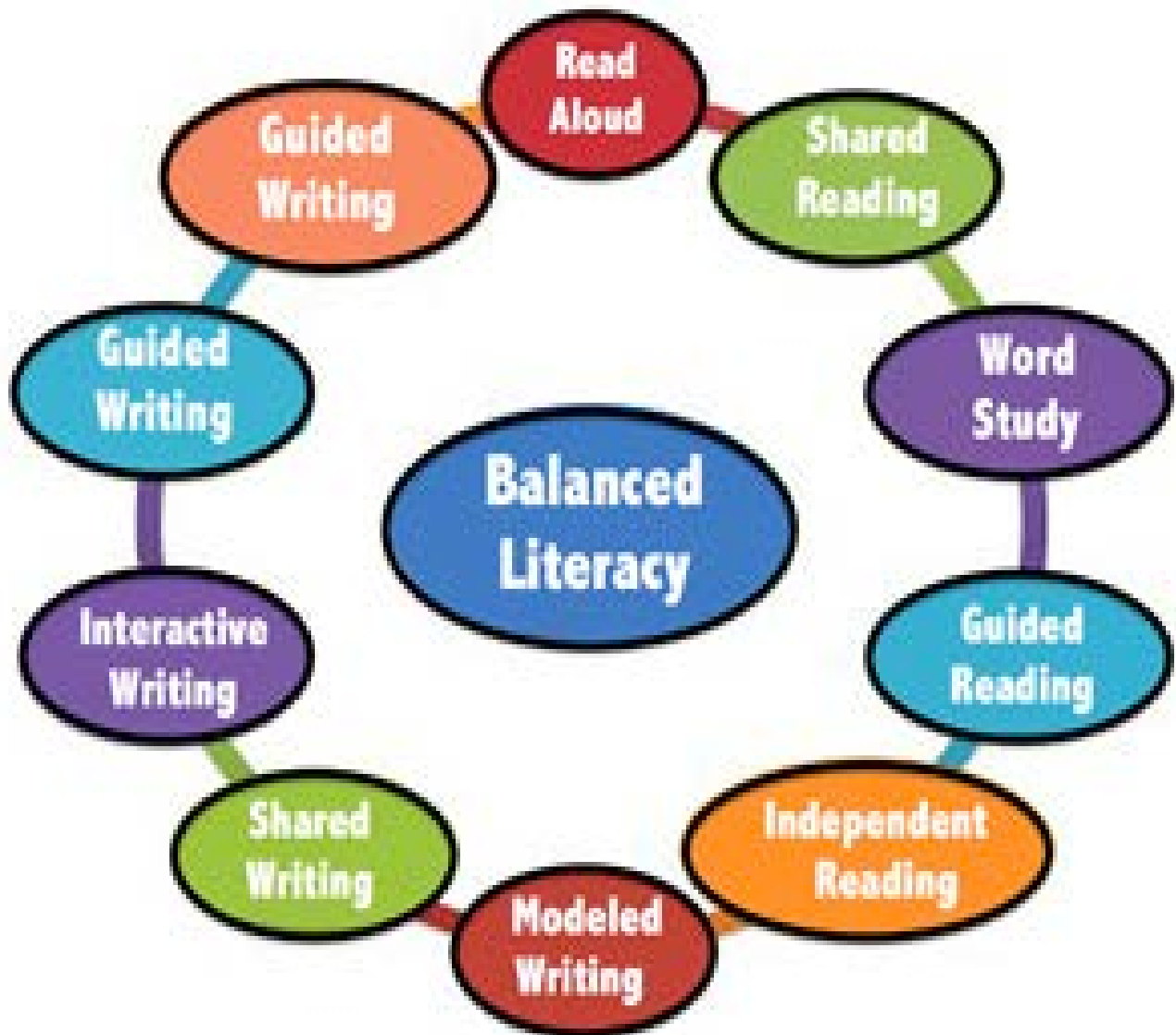
Independent Writing

A balanced literacy approach focuses on two essential areas: reading and writing. This approach engages children in a variety of authentic reading and writing experiences... It benefits students in many ways: students develop a broad range of reading and writing abilities; both focused instruction and independent work are valued so there is a better chance to meet the needs of a diverse group of students; students learn basic information and skills but they also develop strategies that will help them apply their knowledge in a variety of reading and writing contexts; there is an emphasis on comprehension, which is the goal of all reading.

Pinnell, 2000



COMPONENTS OF A BALANCED LITERACY PROGRAM



Read Aloud

Read Aloud is a key component of a balanced reading program. Read Aloud time allows teachers and students to enjoy fiction and nonfiction texts together. Reading aloud builds many important foundational skills, introduces vocabulary, provides a model of fluent, expressive reading, and helps children foster a love of reading.



Shared Reading

Shared Reading is an interactive reading experience that allows children to join in the reading of a big book or an enlarged text guided by the teacher. The reading process and reading strategies are demonstrated through Shared Reading. Shared Reading provides excellent opportunities to demonstrate concepts about print, features of books, writing and the modeling of comprehension strategies.



Independent Reading

Independent Reading is a time when students self-select and read “just right books” on their independent reading level. Students apply independent reading skills and strategies introduced during reading workshop mini-lessons and guided reading sessions. Independent Reading promotes confidence, stamina and motivates students to contribute to their own learning.

Guided Reading

Guided Reading is an instructional reading strategy designed to provide differentiated reading support to students in a small group setting. The teacher works with a group of students with similar reading behaviors to promote reading growth. Students read a variety of increasingly challenging texts that are carefully matched to their instructional reading level. Guided Reading supports students' successful engagement with meaning, language and print of the text.

During Guided Reading, students are exposed to a wide-variety of texts and are challenged to use reading skills and strategies to strategically and independently read. On-going observation and formal and informal assessments guide instruction and the grouping of students.

Word Study

Word Study is the integration of phonemic awareness, phonics, word recognition, spelling and vocabulary study. Word Study builds on a foundation and teaches students to examine words to discover the regularities, patterns and conventions of English orthography and morphology which are needed to read and spell.

Students have the opportunity to explore and understand patterns in words. This knowledge supports students' understanding of how to spell, write and read words.



Shared and Modeled Writing

Shared Writing or Modeled Writing is an approach in which the teacher and children work together to compose messages and stories. Children provide the ideas and the teacher supports the process as a scribe. The teacher provides full support, modeling and demonstrating the process of putting children's ideas into written language. The text becomes much richer than children might be capable of writing themselves. Finished chart stories remain on display so that children may read them over again independently and use them to guide their writing.



Guided Writing

Guided Writing allows teachers to coach children as they are engaged in the process of writing. Teachers work with students in whole group, small group and one-on-one conferences to address the needs of students as they write. Teachers use rubrics to assess a variety of writing. These rubrics are designed to assess learning progressions at each grade level and are aligned to student writing checklists. For each grade level and type of writing, teachers utilize exemplar pieces of writing to illustrate structure, development and language conventions.



Interactive Writing

Interactive Writing is an instructional method used to model the writing process. The teacher creates a writing piece with the class or a small group of students. The teacher and students work together "sharing the pen" to create stories, poems, letters, directions, responses to text read etc.

Independent Writing

During Independent Writing, students work on writing individually and with peers. Students use exemplars, checklists and rubrics to guide their writing work. While students write, the teacher uses the time to confer individually with student writers. During the writing conference, the teacher notes individual strengths and needs. The teacher utilizes information gained from rubrics and writing conferences to guide future writing instruction and student goals/objectives.



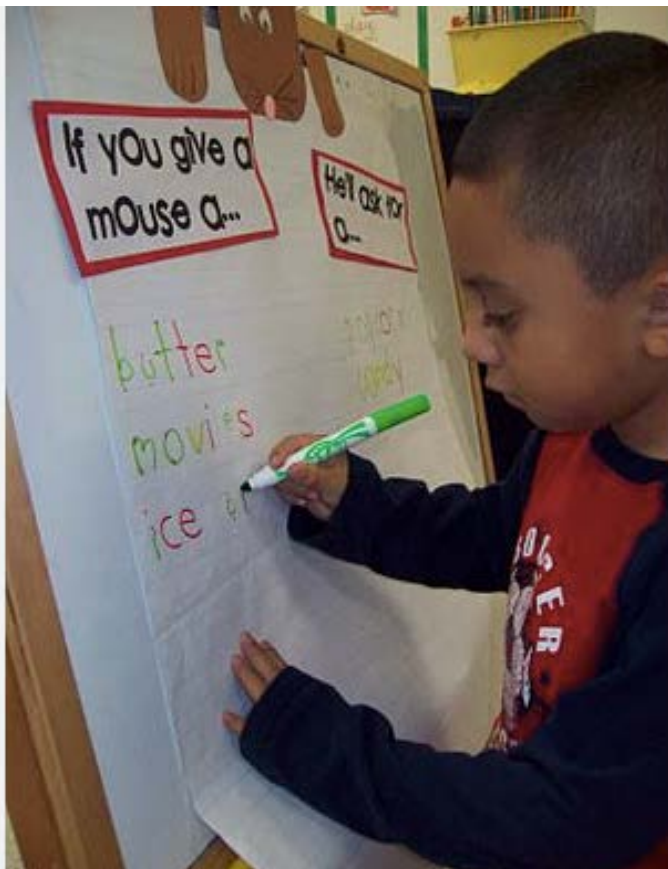
Reading Workshop

The Reading Workshop model provides students with planned, sequential, explicit reading instruction that offers students repeated opportunities to build their skills and apply strategies in both fiction and nonfiction reading. Students are engaged in meaningful literacy experiences to develop their reading and comprehension skills. Teachers use mini-lessons, small groups, partner work, independent reading, guided reading and conferences to support independent strategic reading. Teachers are able to address a variety of needs and abilities in the classroom by having students apply reading skills and strategies at their independent and instructional reading levels. This also allows teachers and students to create individual reading goals and objectives to promote growth. Reading Workshop builds a community of readers through teacher support and peer collaboration.



Writing Workshop

The Writing Workshop model is a combination of writing experiences that occur during the writing block of the Balanced Literacy framework. During Writing Workshop, students are involved in meaningful whole group mini-lessons, partner writing, shared writing, independent writing and guided writing instruction. Students write in a variety of genres and content areas using rubrics and checklists to guide writing. Writing instruction is grade level appropriate, intensive and targeted to the needs of students. Teachers work with students in small groups and individual conferences to support the writing process, qualities of writing and editing and revising skills. Teachers use information gained from writing conferences to develop individual writing goals and objectives.



♥ The Writing Process	
Formal Name (stage)	What you do as a WRITER!
Prewriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a topic Plan it out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brainstorm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw a picture (visualize) senses chart
Drafting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put your ideas on paper "sloppy copy"
Revising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-reading and asking, "How can I make it better?" Idea sharing (Peer Support) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * details, organization * crafting-figurative language
Editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Capitals * Punctuation * Sentence Structure * Word choice
Publishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a final COPY Title - Common, Catchy, Creative