

EARLY LITERACY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Literacy begins at birth.

Families and communities strengthen school-based learning.

Every child is full of literary promise.

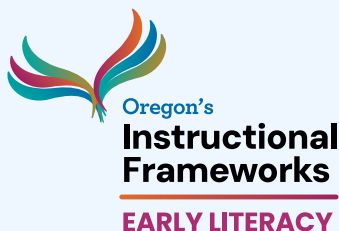
Foundational skills matter.

Every child must be taught to read and write.

Multilingualism benefits everyone.

Educator knowledge and classroom practices are essential.

The Oregon Early Literacy Framework provides a research-based vision to guide teaching of reading and writing and is designed to build statewide coherence, clarity, and common ground about literacy instruction.



OREGON'S EARLY LITERACY FRAMEWORK

Family & Community Partnerships

“ Across almost every facet of literacy development, support and collaboration with families, tribes, and community-based organizations strengthens student literacy development and serves as accelerators for student success.”

— Oregon Department of Education ¹

Why are family and community partnerships important?

Family, community, and school partnerships are reciprocal.

Family, community, and school partnerships are characterized by collaborative, bi-directional relationships where support and learning are mutual. These strong partnerships support student development, address educational challenges, and foster positive learning environments.

Home and school partnerships are foundational for early literacy development.

Families and caregivers teach language and literacy learning from an early age, which is crucial for brain development and sets the stage for future learning. Language experiences at home strengthen children's learning at school.

Family and community partnerships deepen students' connections to their education and support literacy learning.

When educators build authentic relationships and leverage the diverse strengths of students' communities and cultures, they can create personalized, engaging learning experiences that strengthen students' connection to their education.

¹ Oregon Department of Education. (2023). *Oregon's early literacy framework: A strong foundation for readers and writers (K-5)*. https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/ELA/Documents/Literacy%20Framework_2023.pdf

What does this look like in practice?

Practices

Educators proactively establish authentic, purposeful and respectful partnerships with parents, caregivers and families, engaging in reciprocal communication that fosters meaningful family involvement in schools.

Examples

First graders' caregivers are invited to participate in storytelling sessions at the school library, attend art exhibits, or volunteer in classroom activities and on field trips.

Educators work collaboratively with families and the greater community to foster a culture of literacy outside of the classroom.

A kindergarten teacher supports parents by sharing reading and writing resources and strategies, diverse book lists, local reading events, and places to get free books.

Educators leverage the deep insights and expertise families have about their children's needs, interests and strengths to enhance learning.

A third grade teacher uses an interpreter for a family meeting to get to know the family, set student goals, and create personalized support plans. This collaboration helps the teacher integrate the student's language and culture into school activities, enriching the learning environment for all of students in the classroom.

Discussion Starters

How can **educators** use the insights from their relationships with families to effectively support students in the classroom?

How can **leaders** create systems that support collaboration and engagement among the school, families, and the greater community?

How can **parents and caregivers** collaborate with educators to support literacy at home?

[Learn More](#) [Oregon Early Literacy Framework](#)