



Oregon's
Instructional Frameworks | **Early Literacy**

Authentic Partnerships with Families and Caregivers to Support Literacy Learning



Welcome from the Oregon Department of Education

Angelica Cruz

Oregon Department of Education

Director of Literacy



Getting to know our community

In the chat please share:

- Your name and role
- Share a time in your own childhood experience when you felt a strong sense of belonging and inclusion related to literacy.



Webinar Objectives

Participants will

- learn about how Oregon's Early Literacy Framework can serve as a resource for authentic engagement of families and caregivers as partners in student literacy learning and
- explore ideas and strategies for teachers and leaders to support literacy learning through collaborative partnerships with families and caregivers.



Webinar Agenda

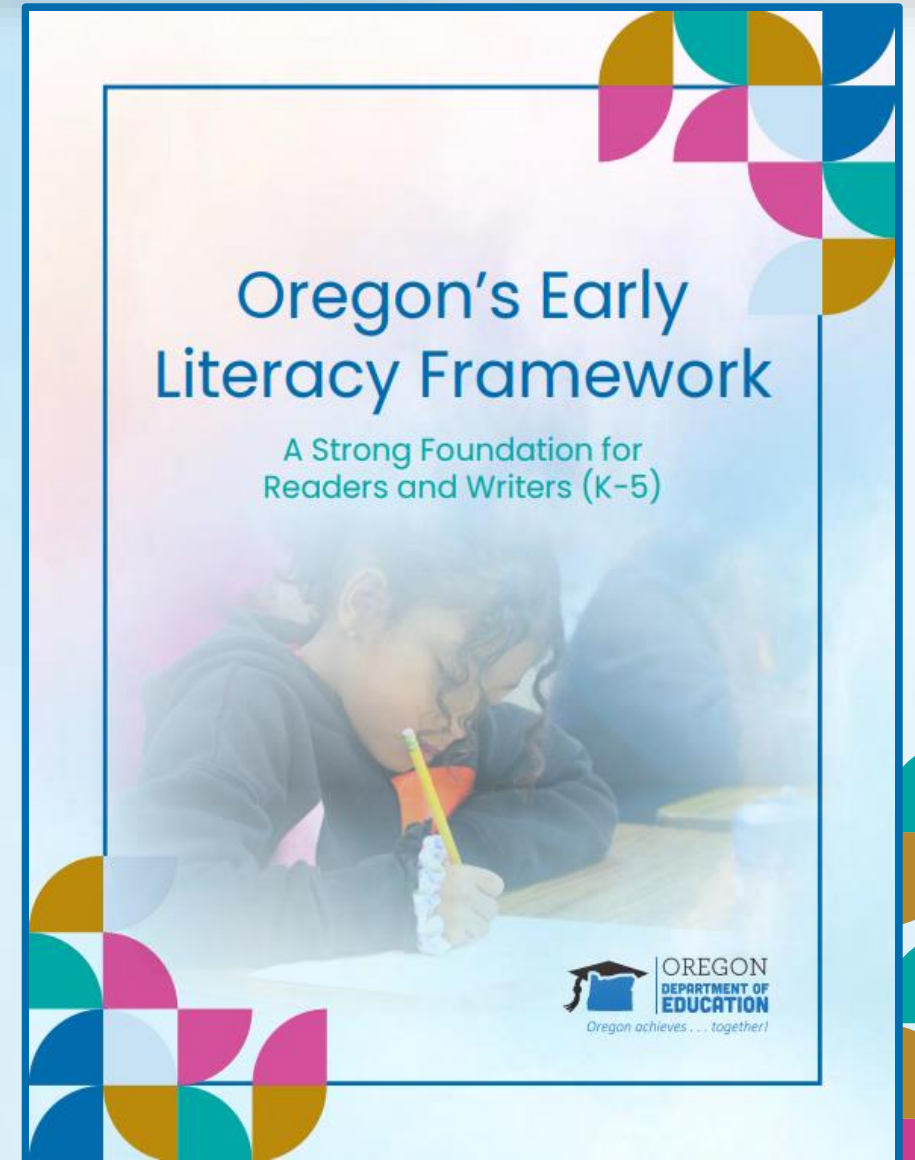
1. Welcome & Community Building Activity
2. Introduction to Oregon's Early Literacy Framework
3. Key Ideas for Supporting Authentic Partnership Between School and Home in Early Literacy
4. Voices from the Field: Partnership to Support Early Literacy
5. Reflection & Closing



Oregon's Early Literacy Framework (K-5)

THE CORE PURPOSE OF THIS FRAMEWORK IS TO:

1. *Build statewide coherence, clarity, and common ground*
2. *Fuel action and improvement*
3. *Provide a practical road map for schools and districts to support leading for a literacy lift*
4. *Serve as a shared north star for educators and community*
5. *Align with Governor's vision for improving student literacy outcomes*



Guiding Principles

The following principles guided the development of this Early Literacy Framework:

Early literacy begins at birth.

Children are full of literary promise.

Families and communities play an important role.

Multilingualism benefits everyone.

Foundational skills matter.

Teacher knowledge and practice are critical.

Every student can be taught to read and write.



Framework Sections

Section 1: Student Belonging: A Necessary Condition for Literacy Learning

Section 2: Family and Community Partnerships

Section 3: Oral Language as the Root for Literacy Development

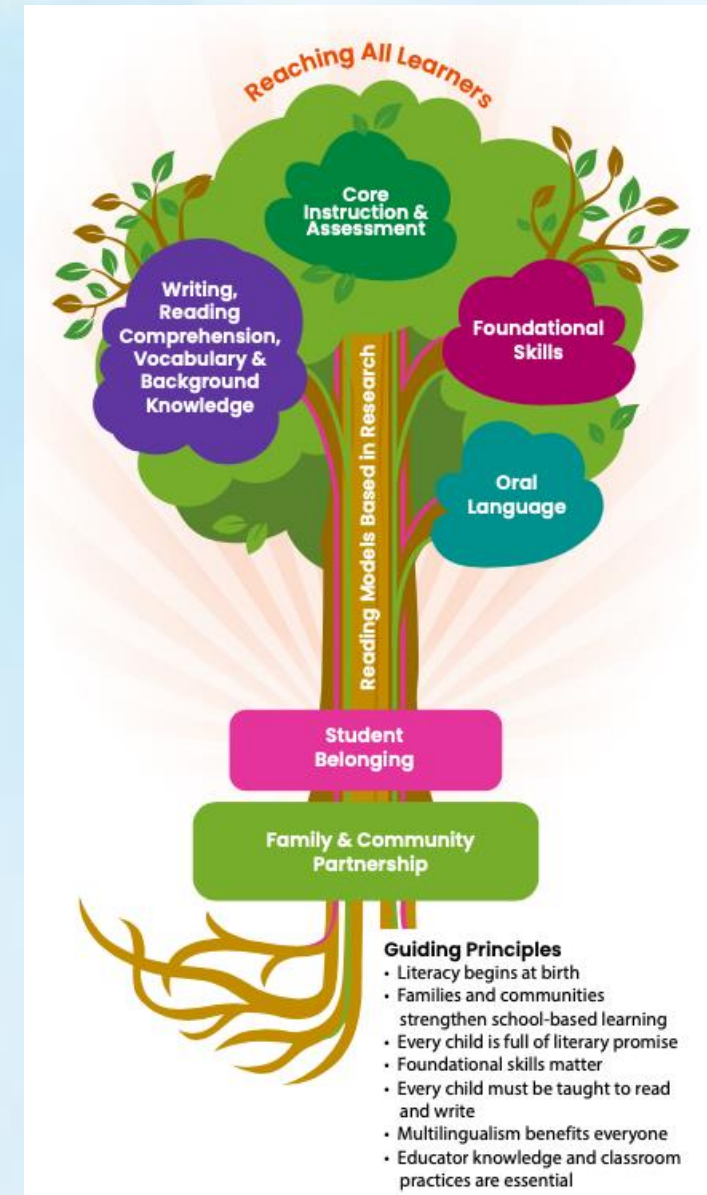
Section 4: Reading Models Based in Research

Section 5: Foundational Skills

Section 6: Writing, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary & Background Knowledge

Section 7: Core Instruction & Assessment

Section 8: Reaching All Learners



Alicia Okpareke, WestEd

Senior Research Associate



Ideal family-school partnerships

How would you describe an ideal family-school partnership in one word?



Current reality: Family-school partnerships

How would you describe the current state of family-school partnerships in your school or district in one word?



Photo Credit: Beth Conyers, Courtesy of Portland Public Schools



Key ideas about family and caregiver partnerships

1. Collaboration with families and communities as learning partners is vital for student literacy development at school.
2. Productive collaboration with family/caregivers is based on recognizing, valuing, honoring and supporting home/community language and literacy assets and practices.
3. There is no one size fits all for authentic family/caregiver partnership.



Collaboration is Vital for Literacy Development at School



Importance of family-school collaboration

Family and school partnerships co-support essential literacy development for students.

- Home
- Community
- School



Photo Credit: Beth Conyers, Courtesy of Portland Public Schools



Funds of Knowledge

Recognizing, valuing, honoring and supporting home/community language and literacy assets and practices



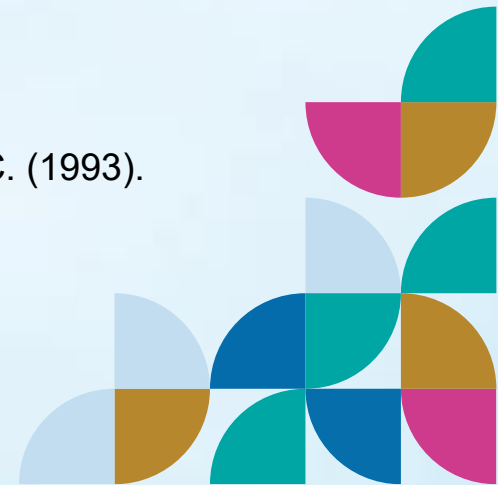
“

historically accumulated, culturally developed and socially distributed resources that are essential for a person’s self-definition, self-expression and self-understanding”

Esteban-Guitart, M. (2014).

“knowledge and resources that come from their background – ethnic, cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic, and/or educational”

Gonzalez, N., Moll, L. C., Floyd-Tenery, M., Rivera, A., Rendon, P., Gonzales, R., & Amanti, C. (1993).



Looking within: Identifying your funds

Categories of funds to consider:

- Geographical
- Practical
- Cultural
- Social
- Institutional
- Experiential



Photo Credit: Beth Conyers, Courtesy of Portland Public Schools



Students' funds of knowledge

- How do you identify your students' funds of knowledge?
- How do you integrate student funds into classroom instruction and activities?
 - How do you ensure that you value and incorporate funds that are less familiar to you?
- *The funds of knowledge of communities who have been historically and persistently marginalized are often less known to schools and are overlooked assets.*



Strategies for Building Authentic Partnership



Building partnerships

- How does belonging feel?
- How does othering feel?



Photo Credit: Beth Conyers, Courtesy of Portland Public Schools



Building partnerships (2)

- What is essential for productive collaboration between families and schools?
 - Key: recognizing, valuing, honoring and supporting home/community language and literacy ***assets and practices***



Strategies for building partnerships

- What strategies do you use to build partnerships?
- They can include:
 - understanding and valuing what families are already doing at home to promote literacy;
 - providing a variety of authentic options to engage with learning at school;
 - holding listening sessions to engage families about their ideas for collaboration; and
 - giving families accessible opportunities to know what students are learning, including breaking down Science of Reading and school jargon into family-friendly terms.
- No one size fits all



Grounding Early Literacy Practices in Community Engagement

Erin Helgren

Yoncalla Elementary School

Yoncalla Preschool



Yoncalla Elementary School - Douglas County

Who are we?



Core values for effective early literacy engagement

**Relational
priority**

**Honor family
and community
collaboration**

**Systems
approach**



Cultivate trusting relationships

- Creating opportunities for families and staff to authentically connect
- TRUST is directly related to CHANGE
- Home visiting
- Grade level family dinners
- Back to school community BBQ



Honor family and community collaboration



- Ground literacy strategies in family input and guidance
- Share data to gain deeper understanding of community driven approaches and opportunities to support growth



Systems approach

- Families as consultants in work
- School leadership and staff prioritize families as partners in decision-making
- Examples:
 - Families as partners in curriculum adoption
 - Engaging families in literacy development professional learning alongside teachers
 - Decolonizing literacy data collection



Aden Cador

4th year kindergarten teacher, Kairos PDX in PPS

- I believe the foundational skills gained in kindergarten are the most important of elementary school!
- Representation through text, weekly communication pertaining to literacy, and inviting families into the classroom, are a few of the strategies I use to engage families into literacy!



Relationship at the forefront

- **Beginning of the year:** talk with families about their schema around literacy, how I can best support them throughout the year
- **Weekly communication:** share details about literacy practices throughout the week and how the skills can be practiced at home
- **Representation:** students see themselves in stories we read



Relationship at the forefront (2)

- **Collaborative classroom invitations:** end of unit celebrations like, “authors teas”
- **Story workshop:** Student-led writing practice. We create our own stories based on our families and communities. We use inventive spelling.
- **Direct phonics instruction:** integrate phonics-instruction into relationship-based morning message and morning meeting



Webinar Takeaways



Collaboration with families and caregivers as learning partners is vital for student literacy development at school.



Productive collaboration with families and caregivers is based on recognizing, valuing and supporting home/community language and literacy assets and practices.



Engage families and caregivers as partners in learning and as decision makers.



Thank You!

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