

EARLY READING FIRST

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND TITLE I, PART B SUBPART 2

What is Early Reading First?

Early Reading First is a new program supporting early childhood education. Early Reading First:

- Requires programs to use scientifically based research to teach children cognitive and language skills
- Emphasizes the cognitive and language domains
- Evaluates the effectiveness of local programs through annual performance reports on their evaluation results
- Evaluates the effectiveness of the program through an independent national evaluation

What elements are required for a scientifically based reading program?

- Research has shown that the five essential components of effective reading instruction are:
 - Phonemic Awareness
 - Phonics
 - Vocabulary
 - Reading Fluency
 - Reading Comprehension

How is Early Reading First funding distributed?

- Early Reading First funds are distributed by the US Department of Education through a competitive grant process to local school districts eligible for the Reading First program, other public or private organizations within those eligible districts, or collaborations between both.
- These organizations will apply for awards on behalf of one or more preschool programs for the purpose of strengthening the literacy components of existing early childhood centers.

How can schools and organizations use Early Reading First funding?

Early Reading First programs must conduct the following activities that have been shown to be effective in developing the language, cognitive, and early reading skills of young children:

- Provide high-quality oral language and literacy-rich classroom environments
- Provide professional development to staff that is based on research knowledge of early language and reading development
- Identify and provide activities and instructional materials based on research to develop children's language, cognitive, and early reading skills,
- Use screening assessments or other appropriate measures to determine whether young children are developing the cognitive skills they need for later reading success
- Integrate these materials, activities, tools, and measures into preschool programs

What Riverdeep instructional materials can be part of an Early Reading First program?

DESTINATION Reading®

