

# INSTRUCTIONAL WALKTHROUGH TOOL FOR GRADES 3-5

The Instructional Walkthrough Tool is designed for observing structured literacy instruction and offering feedback as a part of an ongoing cycle for enhancing structured literacy teaching. It was developed in accordance with Recommendation 3.1 from the Literacy Education Task Force ([osse.dc.gov/literacytaskforce](https://osse.dc.gov/literacytaskforce)). For further details on its purpose and guidance on its utilization, please use the link below.

## DEFINITIONS FOR KEY TERMS (CONTENT & USAGE)

**NOTE:** Please scroll down to see definitions related to using this tool

### LITERACY CONTENT TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES OR NOTES
<b>SCIENCE OF READING</b>	The science of reading is a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically-based research about reading and issues related to reading and writing. This research has been conducted over the last five decades across the world, and it is derived from thousands of studies conducted in multiple languages. The science of reading has culminated in a preponderance of evidence to inform how proficient reading and writing develop; why some have difficulty; and how we can most effectively assess and teach and, therefore, improve student outcomes through prevention of and intervention for reading difficulties.	<a href="https://thereadingleague.org/2021/02/05/defining-movement-coalition-of-literacy-experts-to-solidify-the-science-of-reading-definition/">thereadingleague.org/2021/02/05/defining-movement-coalition-of-literacy-experts-to-solidify-the-science-of-reading-definition/</a>
<b>STRUCTURED LITERACY</b>	Structured Literacy is a comprehensive and evidence-based approach for literacy instruction that is based upon language skills and the need to connect oral and written language to enable literacy. It includes foundational skills of reading and writing in addition to the development of oral language and comprehension.	
<b>PRINT CONCEPTS</b>	A student's understanding that printed words carry meaning, and that reading and writing are ways to get information. It is an awareness of how print works and can be categorized into four main components: concept of book (parts of a book), concept of text (letters, words, and sentences), directionality (we read top to bottom and left to right in English), and mechanics (pause with a comma and full stop with a period).	
<b>PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS</b>	A group of skills related to the ability to recognize the parts of spoken words. Examples include being able to identify words that rhyme, counting the number of syllables in a name, recognizing alliteration, segmenting a sentence into words, and identifying the syllables in a word. The most sophisticated — and last to develop — is phonemic awareness.	
<b>PHONEMIC AWARENESS</b>	The ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words. One example of how beginning readers show that they have phonemic awareness is combining or blending the separate sounds /c/ /a/ /t/ in the word cat.	
<b>DECODING</b>	The ability to translate a word from print to speech by using your knowledge of sound-symbol (letter) correspondences. It is the act of deciphering a new word by sounding it out.	
<b>ENCODING</b>	The ability to translate speech into print (writing) using your knowledge of sound-symbol (letter) correspondences.	

## LITERACY CONTENT TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES OR NOTES
<b>FLUENCY</b>	Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately, at a good pace, and with proper expression and comprehension. Fluency is measured in Word Count Per Minute (WCPM).	
<b>VOCABULARY</b>	Knowledge of the meaning and pronunciation of words. Listening vocabulary refers to the words a person knows when hearing them in oral speech. Speaking vocabulary refers to the words we use when we speak. Reading vocabulary refers to the words a person knows when seeing them in print. Writing vocabulary refers to the words we use in writing.	
<b>ORAL LANGUAGE</b>	Oral language skills include learning how spoken words sound, what words and sentences mean, and how to communicate ideas. A child’s early language skills form the bedrock for learning to read and write print.	
<b>COMPREHENSION</b>	The National Reading Panel (NRP) defines reading comprehension as a cognitive process that integrates complex skills. It is a thinking process that occurs as we read. Comprehension is the main goal of learning to read.	
<b>WRITING</b>	The ability to mark coherent words on paper and compose text. Writing encompasses a developmental sequence ranging from letter formation to the art of composition.	
<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>	Accessibility ensures students with disabilities acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services in an equally effective, equally integrated manner, with substantially equivalent ease of use as a student without disabilities. <a href="#">(Definition of Accessibility in AEM Center, CAST)</a>	
<b>DUAL LANGUAGE</b>	Refers to the ability to listen, speaking, read and write proficiently in two languages. This educational approach enables individuals to engage with and comprehend texts in diverse linguistic contexts, empowering them to communicate effectively, access information, and participate fully in both personal and professional spheres within multicultural environments. It fosters cognitive flexibility, cultural awareness, and appreciation for linguistic diversity.	
<b>ENGLISH LEARNER (EL)</b>	<a href="#">Definition as described in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Please see page 4 of the OSSE EL Policies and Procedures Handbook.</a>	
<b>TRUE COGNATE</b>	Words in two languages that share a similar meaning, spelling, and pronunciation, such as “information” in English and “información” in Spanish.	
<b>FALSE COGNATE</b>	Words in two languages that are similar in form but different in meaning (e.g., English library “place for reading or borrowing books” vs Spanish librería “bookshop”	
<b>TOTAL PHYSICAL RESPONSE (TPR)</b>	Richards and Rogers (1986, p. 87) “The Total Physical Response Method (TPR) is built around the coordination of speech and action; defined as a language teaching method that attempts to teach language through physical (motor) activity.	
<b>REALIA</b>	Objects from real life used in classroom instruction by educators to improve students’ learning	

## TOOL'S USAGE TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES OR NOTES
<b>WALKTHROUGH TOOL</b>	A tool used by administrators, instructional coaches and teachers to observe structured literacy instruction in classrooms and identify strengths and areas of support for teachers.	<a href="#">M-A_p30.pdf (naesp.org)</a>
<b>LITERACY CONCEPT</b>	The specific literacy instruction being taught and observed. This may align with a school's literacy blocks and curriculum (i.e., phonics instructions happens during Foundations).	For specific definition on each concept check out the "Literacy Content Terms" definitions.
<b>EVIDENCE EXAMPLE</b>	An example of teacher actions you may observe to show proficiency in that literacy concept instruction. The provided evidence serves to determine whether this area is a strength or if the teacher may require additional support.	These evidence examples should correlate to examples from a structured literacy training and/or support being provided by a coach.
<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>	This refers to a literacy concept that isn't observable during your observation because of the specific literacy concepts being taught in the classroom at that time. For instance, if you're observing a teacher during their comprehension block, you probably won't see phonics instruction. In such cases, you could mark "N/A" in the drop-down menu for the phonics literacy concepts.	Choosing "N/A" is not a concern of teacher practice. It simply means the teacher is not scheduled to teach those concepts during your observation time.
<b>OBSERVED/NOT OBSERVED</b>	"Observed" means that you see this literacy concept during your observation. "Not Observed" means the teacher did not teach one of the literacy concepts during your observation. If you mark a concept as "Not Observed", it is advisable to follow up with the teacher as to why that concept was not included during the instruction.	"Not Observed" could mean that the teacher taught this concept prior to or after your observation. Make sure to discuss this during a debrief.
<b>STRONG EVIDENCE</b>	Teacher demonstrates proficiency in instruction for all of the observed literacy concepts during your observation and student understanding is apparent.	When determining "proficiency" use your knowledge of structured literacy training to know what proficient structured literacy instruction looks like.
<b>SOME EVIDENCE</b>	Teacher demonstrates some level of proficiency in the literacy concepts during your observation. This could mean that the teacher is proficient in only 1-2 of the concepts listed. Or it could mean that the teacher is almost proficient in most of the concepts but could use some additional support.	When determining some level of proficiency, you can use student understanding to help determine. Also consider, "is this something the teacher could use some additional coaching on?"
<b>NEEDS SUPPORT</b>	Teacher demonstrates very little to no proficiency in the literacy concepts during your observation. It is clear that this is an area where the teacher can use more coaching and support.	When determining very little to no proficiency, consider "is this something the teacher needs full coaching/training support on?"
<b>TEACHER TRAINED</b>	"Teacher trained" refers to if the teacher has received training on this literacy concept from one of the recommended structured literacy training options. For example, a teacher may have started their structured literacy training in September and has not reached the vocabulary modules. If you observe the teacher teaching vocabulary in September, you can mark the teacher as "not trained" under this section.	This section can be filled out by the observer and could also be added in by the teacher during a pre or post observation debrief.
<b>EVIDENCE/NOTES</b>	These are the notes you take when observing your teacher. You may choose to observe a teacher by just taking notes during the observation and then use those notes to identify if they show strong evidence, some evidence, or needs support. Or you may identify their level of evidence first and then take notes to back up your decision.	<a href="#">achievethecore.org/content/upload/Observation%20and%20Feedback%20Cycle.pdf</a>

# WALKTHROUGH TOOL FOR GRADES 3-5

			Feedback		
Category	Application of Literacy Concepts	Evidence Examples	Teacher Trained?	Evidence	Observation Notes <small>(note N/A if you did not observe a concept due to schedule)</small>
<b>ADVANCED WORD STUDY</b>	Tier 1 advanced word study instruction focuses on multisyllabic words and morphology.	Evidenced by teacher following a curriculum or scope and sequence that is aligned to teaching multisyllabic words and morphology	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not Yet	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Observed <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Some Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Support	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	Lesson follows a progression of skills that systematically and cumulatively review a progression of simple to more complex patterns.	Evidenced by viewing prior and future lesson plans.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not Yet	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Observed <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Some Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Support	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	Teacher explicitly teaches strategies for decoding and encoding multisyllabic words.	Evidenced by review of six syllable types, syllable division and how to use syllable types to help decoding, spelling and word meaning.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not Yet	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Observed <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Some Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Support	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	Teacher explicitly teaches morphology instruction, including root words, prefixes and suffixes.	Evidenced by direct instruction in root words, prefixes and suffixes.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not Yet	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Observed <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Some Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Support	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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<b>ADVANCED WORD STUDY</b>	Students have time to apply learning in decoding and encoding.	Evidenced by at least 80 percent of students applying multisyllabic word strategies and/or morphology strategies in a text to support reading automaticity and/or word meaning. Evidenced by students practicing encoding strategies.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not Yet	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Observed <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Some Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Support	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	Teacher provides immediate and targeted feedback to students throughout the lesson.	Evidenced by teacher paying close attention to student responses and providing targeted feedback such as “try breaking the word up into syllables and then reading it” or “how can the prefix in that word help you understand the meaning?”	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not Yet	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Observed <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Some Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Support	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	Teacher makes notes about response to instruction and adjusts as necessary	Evidenced by teacher’s ability to note down student errors and adjust current or next lesson to reflect those errors.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not Yet	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Observed <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Some Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Support	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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<b>ADVANCED WORD STUDY</b>	<p>EL Considerations: Teacher makes connections between graphemes in L1 and L2 and focuses on sound-symbol correspondences that are partially the same or new in L2. Teacher instructs word meanings in new language during phonics. Teacher considers background knowledge needed for students to read decodable passages and pre teaches when necessary. Teacher utilizes visuals or realia.</p>	<p>Evidenced by teacher analyzing grapheme differences between L1 and L2, which are listed in the lesson plan. Evidenced by teacher's explicit instruction in partially same and new graphemes in L2. Evidenced by teacher using visuals or realia to build vocabulary of tier 1 words that students are decoding and reading in decodable texts. Evidenced by teacher building background knowledge for decodable text.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> Not Yet	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Observed  <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Evidence  <input type="checkbox"/> Some Evidence  <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Support	_____
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Category	Application of Literacy Concepts	Evidence Examples	Teacher Trained?	Evidence	Observation Notes <small>(note N/A if you did not observe a concept due to schedule)</small>
<b>Accessibility:</b> <b>Ways to make the content accessible to all students.</b> <i>This is not only for special education teachers and students.</i>	<p><b>Engagement:</b> The learning environment is conducive to motivating students' engagement via diverse choices. The relevance of lessons to students' learning is explicitly stated.</p> <p><b>Representation:</b> Lesson contents are presented in a variety of formats, and students are provided options to acquire knowledge and skills that reflect their diverse learning styles.</p> <p><b>Expression:</b> Students are provided with options for expressing what they know using various learning tools.</p>	<p>See more specific examples here <a href="https://www.nj.gov/education/udl/docs/walkthrough.pdf">nj.gov/education/udl/docs/walkthrough.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Engagement:</b> The learning goal or objective is posted and presented in student-friendly language. Students are engaged in various shapes and forms of activities such as active listening, writing, engaging in conversation with peers, or actively using technology.</p> <p><b>Representation:</b> The teacher uses multiple media in presenting the lesson contents, e.g., visual, audio, sensory, manipulative, and learning tools. The teacher actively uses a variety of support materials (e.g., word wall, letter cards, sensory manipulatives, etc.).</p> <p><b>Expression:</b> Multiple forms of assessment are available for students, such as verbal answers, gestures, options, etc.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not Yet	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Observed <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Some Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Support	_____
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<b>DUAL LANGUAGE</b>	<p><b>Lesson Plan:</b> Teachers designed learning activities to develop literacy skills in LOTE and designated instructional time to transfer literacy skills from LOTE to English intentionally.</p>	<p><b>Lesson plan:</b> Teachers prepare a comprehensive lesson plan to develop biliteracy skills in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and metalanguage. Teachers design lesson plans from a thematic unit of learning that builds biliteracy skills across weeks of instruction. There should be formative and summative assessments that offer students multiple opportunities to show their literacy learning and progress. Language acquisition and cross-language connection strategies are intentionally planned to develop biliteracy skills.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Observed	_____
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DUAL LANGUAGE	<b>Instructional resources: The school guarantees access to instructional materials in LOTE that are high quality, standard-aligned, and build strong foundational skills for literacy and cross-language connections.</b>	<b>Instructional resources:</b> Teachers have access to teachers' guides and best practices recommendations to develop foundational skills in LOTE as well as recommendations to identify similarities and differences between the two languages of instruction to help students' mental language processes to transfer literacy skills. Instructional materials facilitate extending learning activities rather than repeating and translating lessons from English to LOTE.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Observed	_____
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