

# Science of Reading: An Introduction

Inservice Points 5

Component No. 2-013-011

The science of reading is a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically based research about reading and issues related to reading and writing that includes over 50 years of research in the areas of psychology, neuroscience, linguistics and education.

Throughout this course, participants will deepen their knowledge about the science of reading, gain an understanding of how the reading brain develops and take a deeper look into how word recognition and language comprehension are critical to skilled reading. The course will also provide practical ways to incorporate the principles of the science of reading into instruction. Although the content is written for K-12 classroom educators, administrators, other school personnel, pre-service teachers, college and university faculty, and trainers may find it is useful to help gain a better understanding of the science of reading.

## **Specific Objectives:**

This course is comprised of four units. Each unit includes objectives, content, and Check Your Knowledge activities.

- **What is the Science of Reading?:** Unit 1 provides a definition of the Science of Reading as well as a brief overview of some of the fundamental research behind the Science of Reading. Both the Simple View of Reading and Scarborough’s Reading Rope will be introduced and utilized as helpful tools in understanding the skills and abilities needed to achieve skilled reading.
- **Development of the Reading Brain:** Unit 2 presents information on how the reading brain is developed. Research on how the growth of our ability to comprehend written language happens in our brain will be provided. Understanding how the brain learns to read will provide insight into the needed skills humans must acquire in order to become a skilled reader. Connections between the reading brain and the science of reading will be provided.
- **Components of Skilled Reading:** Unit 3 continues the focus on the research aligned to how children learn to read by taking a deeper look at the roles language comprehension and word recognition play in the development of skilled reading.
- **Instructional Practices for Reading:** Unit 4 provides an overview of evidence-based best practices aligned to effective reading instruction.

### **Activities:**

To be eligible for the suggested in-service points for this course, you must successfully complete all the following items:

- **Review of All Course Content**  
Review of the course content includes all content, additional links, resources, and the Check Your Knowledge at the end of each unit.
- **Final Assessment**  
Pass the final assessment with at least 80% accuracy. The final assessment can be accessed from the My Courses page, AFTER you have reviewed all the course content.
- **Course Workbook**  
You will be asked to reflect on things you learn in each unit of this course. Download the [course workbook](#) to add notes that capture the key ideas. Submit your course workbook, along with your follow-up activity to your supervisor to verify completion.

### **Follow-up:**

- **Follow-up Activity**  
Complete one of the follow-up activities by applying what you have learned in this course. Complete instructions can be accessed on the My Courses page AFTER you have successfully passed the final assessment.
  - Option 1 – Instructional Plan and Reflection
  - Option 2 – Action Plan to Support Teachers
  - Option 3 – Application of Content and Resources
- **Follow-up Activity Verification Form**  
Submit the Follow-up Activity, Course Workbook, and Verification Form to your supervisor. Once the verification form has been signed by your supervisor, go to the My Courses page and upload it.
- **Satisfaction Survey**  
The survey can be accessed from the My Courses page, AFTER you have completed the above requirements.