Understanding that written language represents meaningful oral language and that books and print have structure ensures students understand how print works.

Having the ability to recognize and manipulate the units of sound in language (without print) prepares a student to map speech sounds to letter sounds in printed words.

Understanding the systematic, predictable relationship between written letters and spoken sounds ensures that students can decode real and regularly spelled nonsense words.

Reading with accuracy, reasonable rate, and appropriate expression predicts that a student is comprehending.

The ability to produce words, sentences, and meaningful discussion provides a strong foundation for reading.

The ability to recognize and understand the meaning of oral and written words is pivotal in becoming a fluent reader and to comprehend text.

Comprehension is the goal of reading. It is the active and purposeful pursuit of understanding the author’s message.