

Balanced Literacy

A balanced literacy program incorporates reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing, using a variety of research-based instructional practices that are an integral part of daily instruction.

Students are actively engaged in their learning, which is authentic, relevant to their lives, and meaningful.

The teacher acts as a facilitator who scaffolds children's learning experiences, often beginning with modeling, moving to guided practice until the goal of student independence is reached. The teacher deliberately plans instruction, utilizing both explicit and implicit teaching methods, integrated into the literacy curriculum.

Instruction is based on on-going assessment to determine student strengths, learning styles, and needs. The classroom environment supports children's individual needs and empowers them to make choices that are authentic and meaningful.

Parents are considered critical partners in the learning process and home-school connections are intentionally fostered.