



## RAPID Educator Series Agenda

**Module 1 Orthography, Orthographic Processing and Print Concepts:** Concepts of print are important for emergent literacy development. This includes the awareness of how print works, including emerging knowledge about books, print, and written language. The most important early print concept is letter recognition, which should begin immediately in kindergarten.

**Module 2 Phonological Awareness and Processing:** Phonological awareness is a broad term used for all things related to the sounds of spoken language. Phonological awareness is entirely oral and forms the building blocks for later reading before print is even introduced. Research supports that phonological awareness is a key predictor (along with alphabet knowledge) for success with decoding the written word into speech.

**Module 3 Phonemic Awareness:** Phonemic awareness is a subgroup of phonological awareness which focuses only on phonemes (the smallest unit of speech that can be combined to make words). Phonemic awareness connects directly to phonics, as students must be able to hear the sounds in order to recognize them in written form.

**Module 4 Phonics:** Phonics instruction teaches students to use the relationship between letters and sounds to translate printed text into pronunciation. It includes the teaching of letter sounds, how complex spelling patterns are pronounced, and how to use this information to decode or sound out words. The focus should be on systematic phonics instruction (teaching of phonics with a clear plan or Initiative), as opposed to more opportunistic or sporadic attention to phonics in which the teacher must construct lessons in response to the observed needs of children.

**Module 5 Fluency:** Fluency consists of reading accurately, at an appropriate rate, and with expression (prosody). Fluency develops from repeated opportunities to practice reading with a high degree of success. Determining the appropriate texts for each student is essential to develop fluency.

**Module 6 Vocabulary:** Vocabulary is knowledge of words and word meanings. It includes expressive vocabulary (words said or produced) and receptive vocabulary (words heard and understood). Vocabulary is important for later reading comprehension; for decoding and language comprehension.

**Module 7 Comprehension:** Comprehension is the understanding and interpretation of what is read through the processes of extracting and constructing meaning from written texts. To be able to accurately understand written material, children need to be able to (1) decode what they read; (2) make connections between what they read and what they already know; and (3) think deeply about what they have read.