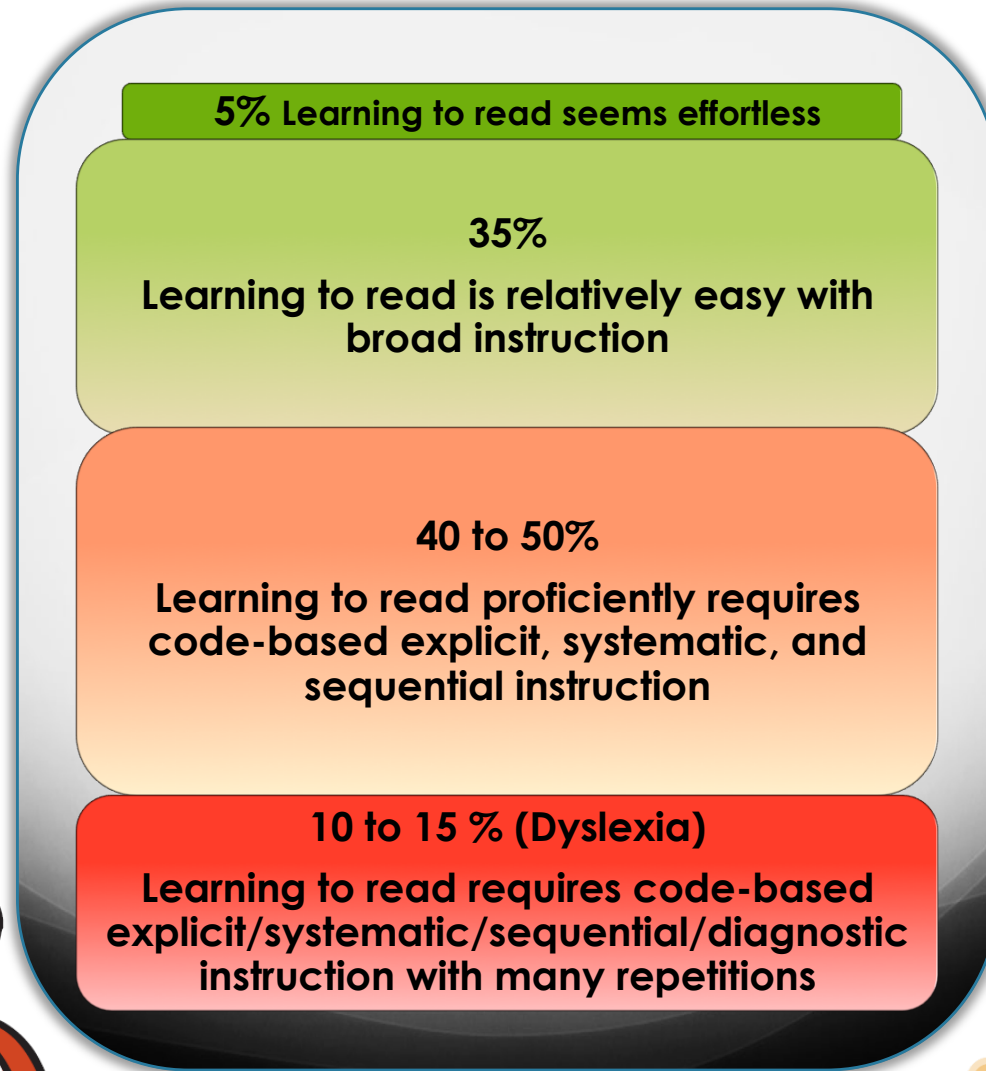


The Ladder of Reading



Advantaged
by a
structured
literacy
approach

Structured
literacy
approach
essential

© N. Young, 2018

Artwork by Dean Stanton

(Lyon, 1998; NRP, 2000; IDA, 2015; Hempenstall, 2016)

www.nancyyoung.ca

What is Structured Literacy? A primer by Nancy Young

Structured Literacy is an approach to teaching reading that includes **explicit, systematic & cumulative** instruction of:

Phonology

Awareness of the sound structures within spoken words underlies reading and spelling mastery, particularly the awareness of individual speech sounds (called phonemes) in words. **Structured Literacy builds and strengthens this awareness of individual phonemes in words**, from identification and segmentation to the manipulation of phonemes in words.

Orthography

Reading (decoding) and spelling (encoding) require knowledge of the written code – the symbols representing the phonemes in spoken words. **Structured Literacy teaches the code systematically**, from most to least common symbols (graphemes), as well as allowable grapheme positions, syllable types, word origin, and the rationale for certain spellings.

Morphology

Beyond teaching about speech sounds and their written symbols, **Structured Literacy teaches about the units of meaning – morphemes – in words**. This means learning that words may have just one unit of meaning or be formed by combining units of meaning (such as adding a prefix and/or suffix to a base), sometimes resulting in grapheme pronunciation changes.

Syntax

Learning to read and write means knowing that words are used in different ways. **Structured Literacy includes learning about speech parts (e.g. verb, noun), how words are organized into sentences, and the mechanics of written text**.

Semantics

Within every part of a Structured Literacy approach, words and their meanings are explored both individually and combined in various forms of text. The **rich language learning environment** grounding a Structured Literacy approach builds vocabulary and background knowledge, steadily developing and strengthening comprehension and writing skills.

Nancy's book, *Secret Code Actions™*, contains Clues, Alerts and Detective Enrichment relating to all of the above, plus creative skill-related movements to make learning the secrets of the code more engaging and fun for teacher and learner – no matter what age or stage!

Find out more, and see specific examples, at www.SecretCodeActions.com

Structured Literacy source (March 2018):

<https://dyslexiaida.org/effective-reading-instruction/>

(My books and website list this and other resources with helpful information about Structured Literacy!)

