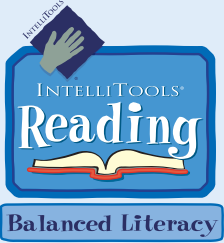


NCLB's Reading First and *IntelliTools® Reading: Balanced Literacy*

Reading First (No Child Left Behind, Title I, Part B) is designed to ensure that every child can read at grade level or above by the end of third grade through reading instruction grounded in scientifically based reading research. The Reading First initiative targets services to districts that are low-performing and high-poverty. Reading instruction must focus on the five essential components of reading instruction (see list below).

IntelliTools Reading: Balanced Literacy is an excellent supplement to any core Reading First program. It engages students in a year-long program designed to support and supplement their classroom language arts curriculum and provides a balanced approach to early literacy instruction for beginning readers. It integrates guided reading, supported writing, and word study or phonics activities.

Balanced Literacy was developed with the help of a grant from the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, National Institutes of Health, and was researched and evaluated by teachers around the country. In addition to their measurable gains in reading skills, children in the experimental group demonstrated increased confidence and motivation in reading.

Reading First 5 Components of Reading Instruction	IntelliTools Reading: Balanced Literacy Solutions	
Phonemic Awareness	<p><i>Balanced Literacy</i> increases phonemic awareness through the use of rhymes and wordplay in songs and oral language. Multimedia lessons help students hear, identify, and manipulate spoken sounds and words in game-like activities. Songs, rhymes, and patterned language facilitate retention and motivation.</p>	
Phonics	<p>Word study lessons are based on the latest research in phonics instruction, and hands-on activities are sequential, intentional in skill building, and provide systematic practice. <i>Balanced Literacy</i> provides the meaningful and spiral repetition that struggling students need to reinforce skills learned.</p>	
Vocabulary	<p><i>Balanced Literacy's</i> lessons employ frequent repetition of new words and the ability to select and hear every word read aloud, effectively building reading vocabulary. Engaging activities provide repetition and practice with 100 carefully selected high-frequency and sight words. Students use their phonetic skills to decode new words and increase their reading vocabulary.</p>	
Fluency	<p>All words in <i>Balanced Literacy's</i> on-screen books and activities are highlighted as they are read aloud, providing the critical reinforcement needed to build reading fluency. Colorfully illustrated onscreen Anchor Books, featuring engaging animal themes, include predictable text, repetition, rhyme, and music.</p>	
Comprehension	<p>Explore and review activities at the end of Anchor Books and additional decodable books in each unit provide practice and record student performance. Teachers can use its real-time embedded assessment to gauge comprehension, decide what practice the student needs next, and personalize instruction accordingly.</p>	

Additional Classroom Benefits of *Balanced Literacy*

- Structured writing activities and spelling are included in each unit to support students' emerging writing fluency.
- Lessons correlate to English Language Arts Standards for selected states, TESOL standards for English language learners, and ISTE's NETS Standards for Students.
- The program is customizable to support different learning styles and is fully accessible for special needs students using scanning or an IntelliKeys adaptive keyboard.



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