



Serving the professional
development needs
of Ohio ABLE

Fact Sheet

Evidence-Based Reading Instruction (EBRI)

Research on Teaching Adults to Read

In adult basic education, the key evidence for reading instruction comes from the 2002 report by John Kruidenier, [Research-Based Principles for Adult Basic Education Reading Instruction](#). This report reviewed the reading research in both the K-12 and adult education systems. Kruidenier, in particular, looked for empirical evidence that could pinpoint what skills adults need to be successful readers. The report further identified the four key Components of Reading for adults:

- **Alphabetics**
The process of translating, or decoding, printed words into meaningful, spoken words.
- **Fluency**
The ability to read with efficiency and ease
- **Vocabulary**
The body of words whose meanings an individual knows and understands
- **Comprehension**
The ability to understand and gain meaning from what has been read

Adding Instructor Experience

Determining the most effective means of instruction also relies on practical, day-to-day experiences in the classroom. Instructors are making constant decisions on plans, materials and delivery methods that adapt to their own students and classroom settings.

Tying the Pieces Together

Evidence-Based Reading Instruction (EBRI) is the combination of research (empirical evidence) and practice (professional wisdom). This is considered the most appropriate and effective means to provide reading instruction.



Ohio's Response to EBRI

In Ohio, EBRI is:

- embedded in the Reading Standard, Components of Performance and Benchmarks.
- the focus of the pilot STAR project (Student Achievement in Reading) for intermediate level adult readers.
- one of the specialty areas of the Southwest ABE Resource Center, including training, resources and program assistance.

Implications for ABE Teachers

- Conduct direct instruction in reading needs
- Identify evidence-based strategies for instruction in each component of reading
- Encourage professional wisdom, which is used to adapt the evidence to your particular classroom demographics, style and setting

For Further Information

Applying Research in Reading Instruction for Adults: First Steps for Teachers. National Center for Family Literacy, 2006.

Kruidenier, John. Adult Basic Education: Reading Instruction. The Partnership for Reading, 2002.