



## MISINFORMATION

Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ teaches kids to “guess” at words, not decode.

Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ teaches phonics only in an incidental way.

Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ resources are not effective.



## FACT

**Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ resources teach children to decode, using letters and sounds to read words.** Fountas & Pinnell’s approach to foundational literacy includes explicit and systematic phonics, alongside a strong focus on comprehension, vocabulary, language skills, and fluency.

*Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI)* has demonstrated statistically significant positive effects on students’ general reading achievement and fluency, as well as decoding skills, as measured by the DIBELS nonsense word fluency subtest.

**Phonics has always been essential for teaching a child to read in Fountas & Pinnell Literacy.™ In fact, the first curriculum resource Fountas and Pinnell published was explicitly focused on phonics.**

Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ teaches phonics through a series of systematic lessons that address critical areas of learning, including phonemic awareness, letter knowledge, letter-sound relationships, and spelling patterns. Daily lessons support children in applying their knowledge of phonics to support accurate reading in relation to specific texts.

**Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ resources have been proven effective through independent studies, including a gold standard study endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education’s What Works Clearinghouse.**

Learn more here: <https://downloads.heinemann.com/fp-lli>

*Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI)* has demonstrated statistically significant positive effects on students’ general reading achievement and fluency, as well as decoding skills, as measured by the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skill (DIBELS) nonsense word fluency subtest. This was shown through a “proven effective” rating based on ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) standards through rigorous randomized controlled trial studies.

Learn more here: <https://www.fountasandpinnell.com/research/fpc/>

An analysis of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) report card released in October 2022 showed that many of the top performing districts used Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ resources. For example, in South Carolina, a state without any declines in NAEP performance, 68% of their top performing districts utilize a Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ resource.



## MISINFORMATION

Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ is based on the Whole Language theory of how kids learn to read.

Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ does not support students in need of reading intervention.



## FACT

**Fountas & Pinnell's approach is not Whole Language and is not based on Whole Language.** Fountas and Pinnell believe that all children need explicit instruction in phonics, reading, and writing. F&P resources support children's attention to every letter, sound, and word in order to read and write with accuracy, fluency, and understanding. F&P resources are based on a broad body of research developed and informed by many educational researchers.

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Further, *LLI* has been proven effective with students with various needs, including those with Individualized Education Plans (IEP). In a 2009-10 study of the progress of students using an LLI curriculum, which included kindergarten through fifth-grade students with an IEP for Reading or other categories (SPED), students made an average of 7.5 months of progress in a little more than 4.5 months.

Learn more here:

Fountas & Pinnell LLI (heinemann.com)

<https://www.fountasandpinnell.com/research/lli/>

GET THE  
FACTS