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It's Never Too Late: Supporting the Literacy Learning Needs of Tweens, Teens and Beyond

Communication Matters

AAC & Literacy: Best Practice Days

2 May 2019

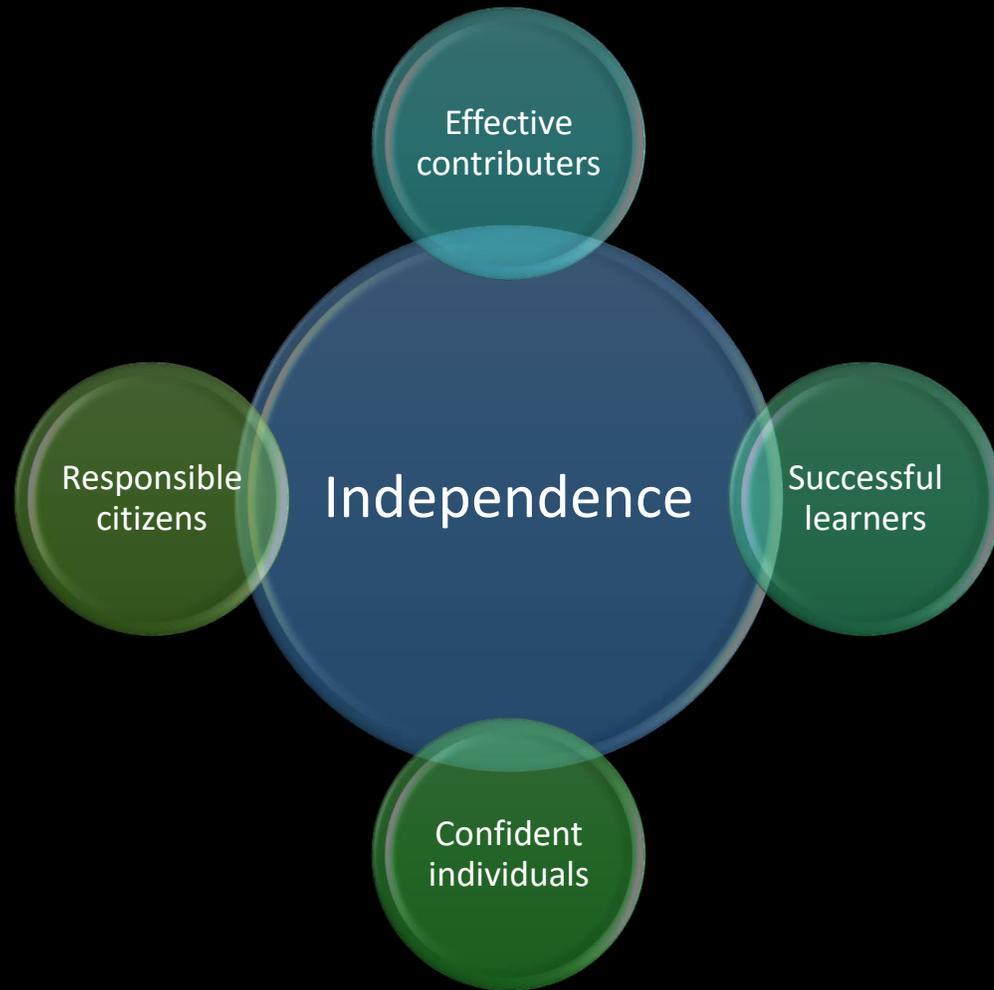
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The ultimate
goal of literacy
instruction for
all:

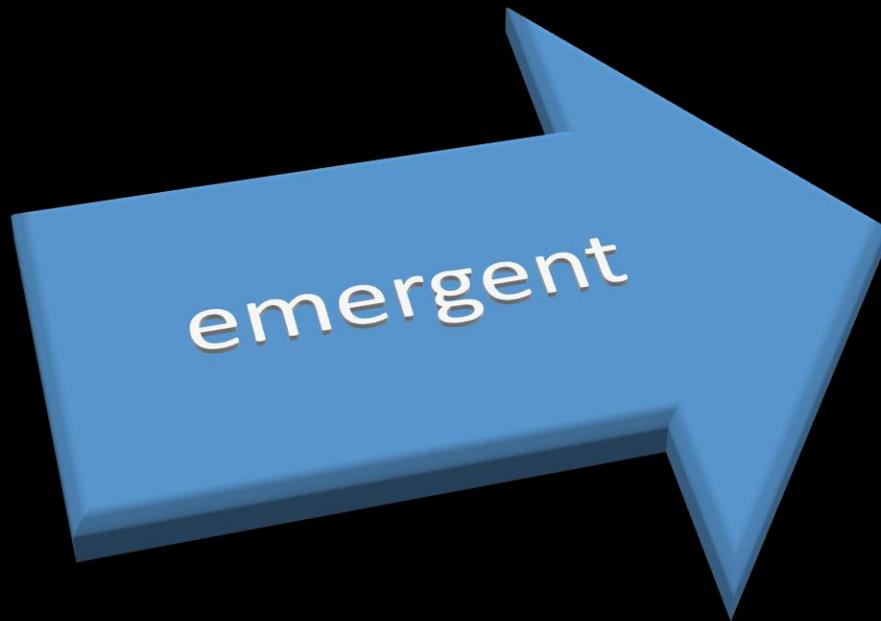


A person with dark, curly hair is seen from behind, sitting at a desk and reading an open book. The background is a blurred library or study area with bookshelves. The text is overlaid on the image in white.

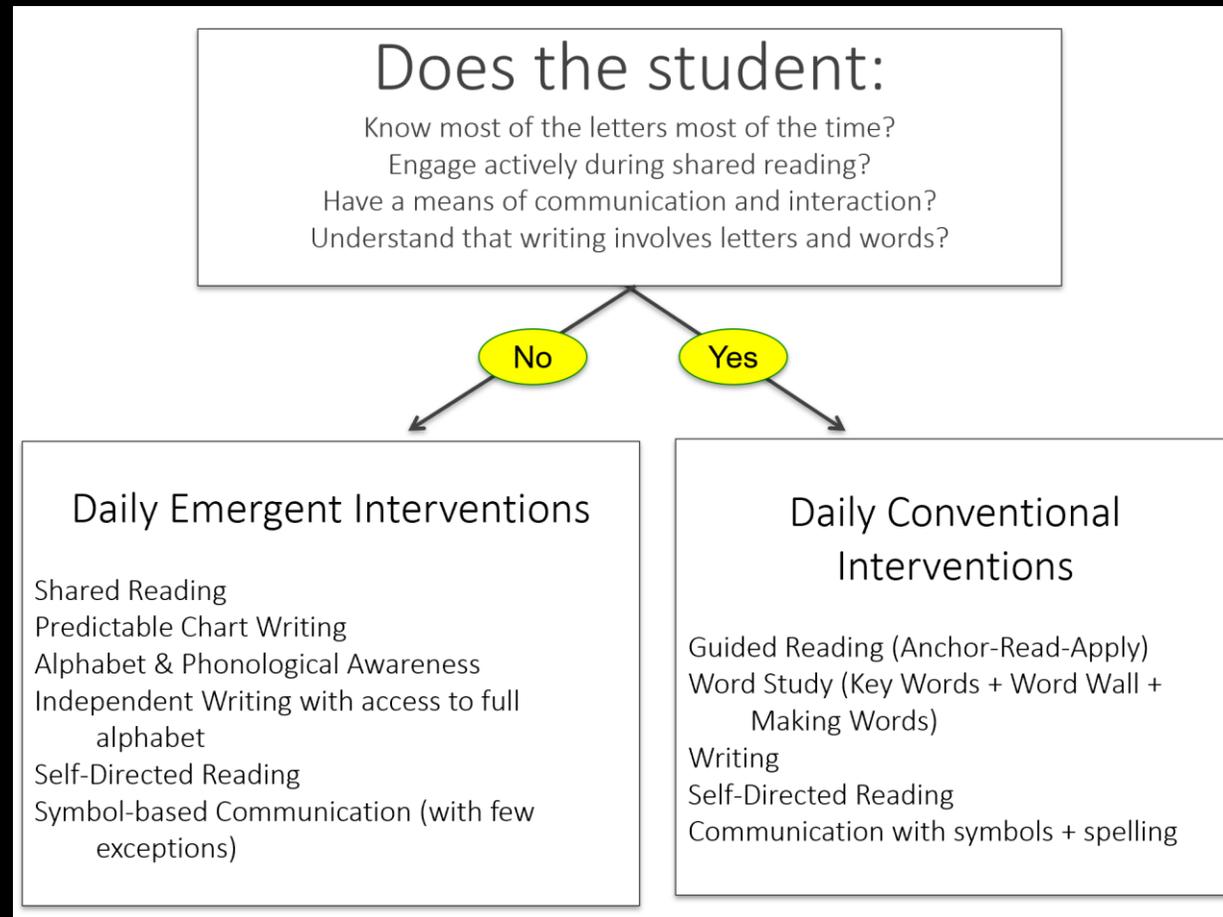
Let's think about our tween
and teen AAC users...

Let's Bust Some Myths!

Beginners come in two colors:



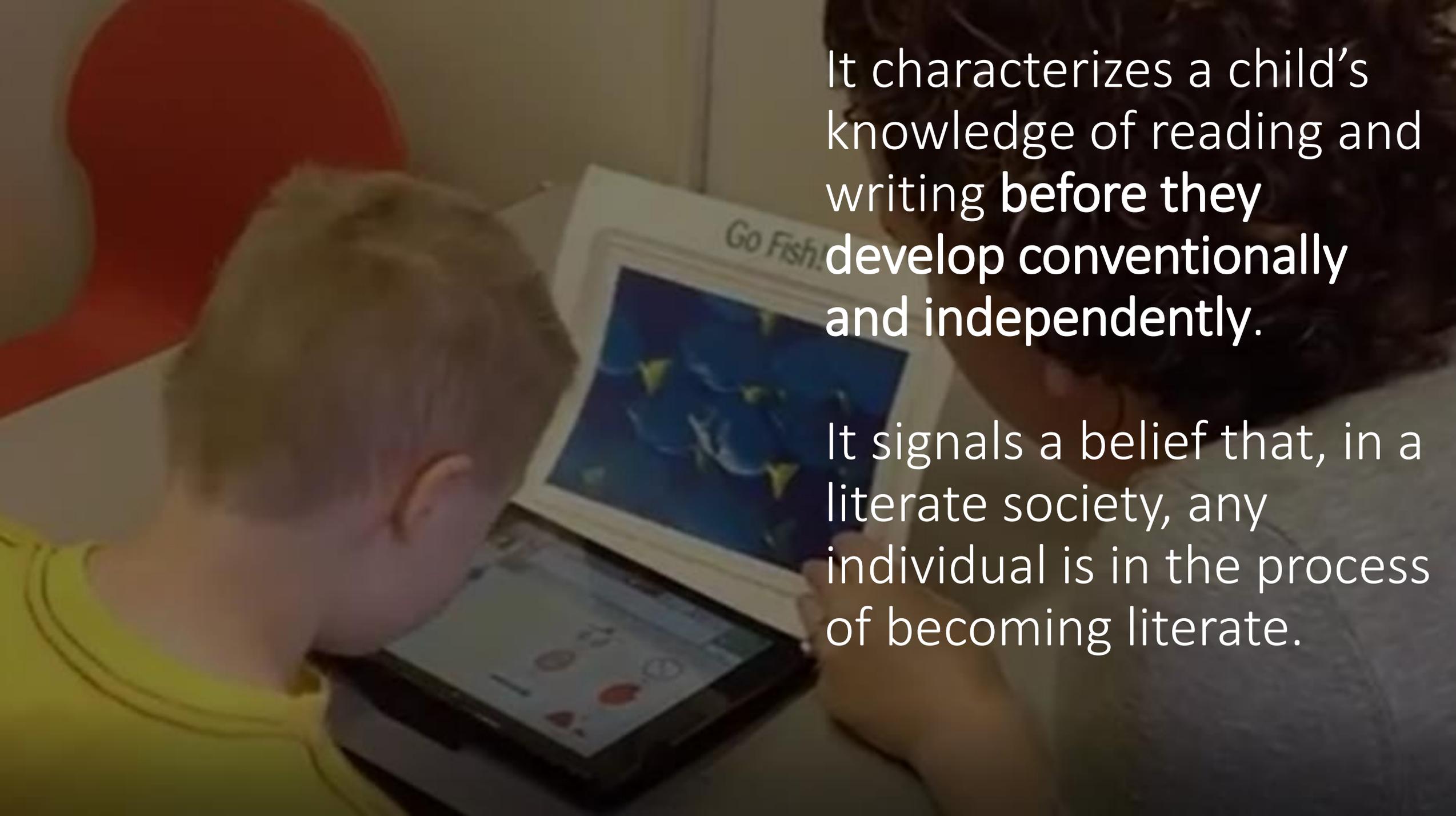
Erickson and Koppenhaver sort it like this:



Since 80% of AAC users, including tweens and teens, are considered emergent, let's start there...

What is emergent literacy?





It characterizes a child's knowledge of reading and writing **before they develop conventionally and independently.**

It signals a belief that, in a literate society, any individual is in the process of becoming literate.

Ongoing process, that
begins at birth if not
before...



And progresses across a lifetime...



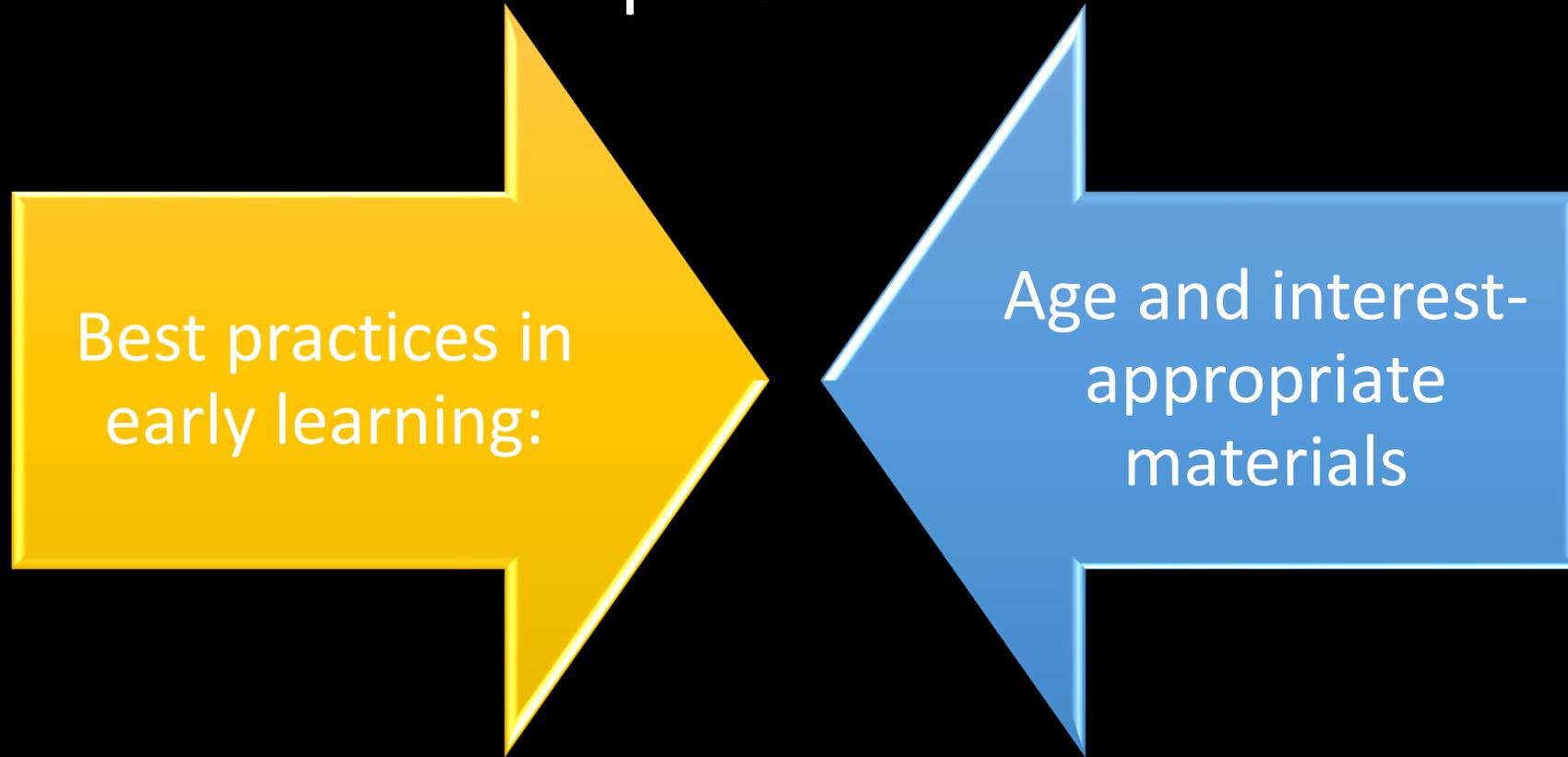
It's the 1,000-
hour foundation
upon which all of
our conventional
skills rest.

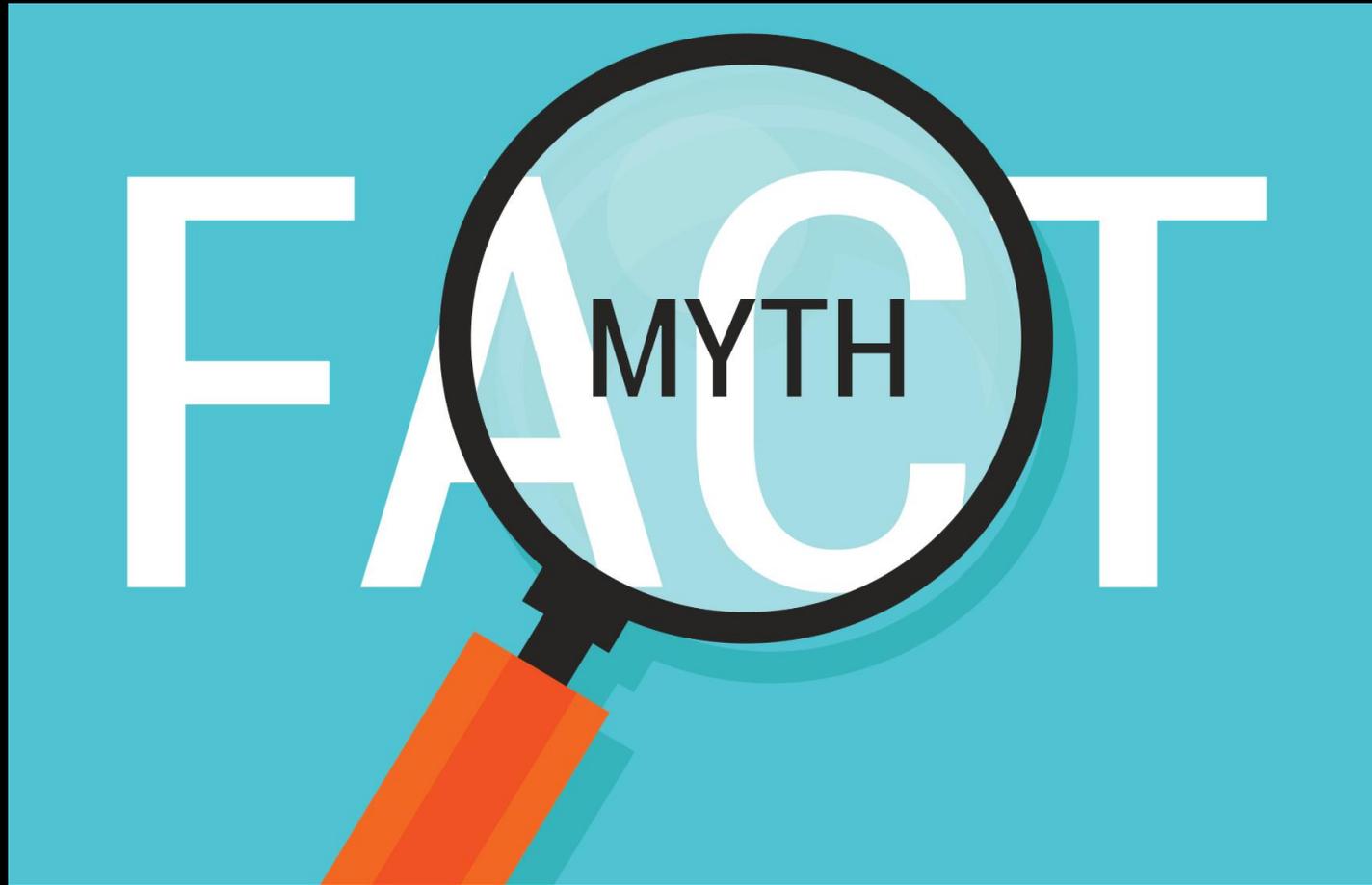


It can and does
coincide with
any age or
point in
development...



How does all of this relate to tweens and teens in particular?





Let's look at some myths about literacy and AAC...

An illustration on a teal background showing a hand with red nail polish holding a thin pin that is piercing a large, inflated green balloon. The hand is positioned on the right side of the balloon, and the pin is inserted into the balloon's surface. The balloon has a small white oval shape on its upper right side and a small green triangular shape at the bottom where the string is attached. The text "Then we'll bust them..." is written in white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, overlapping the balloon and the hand.

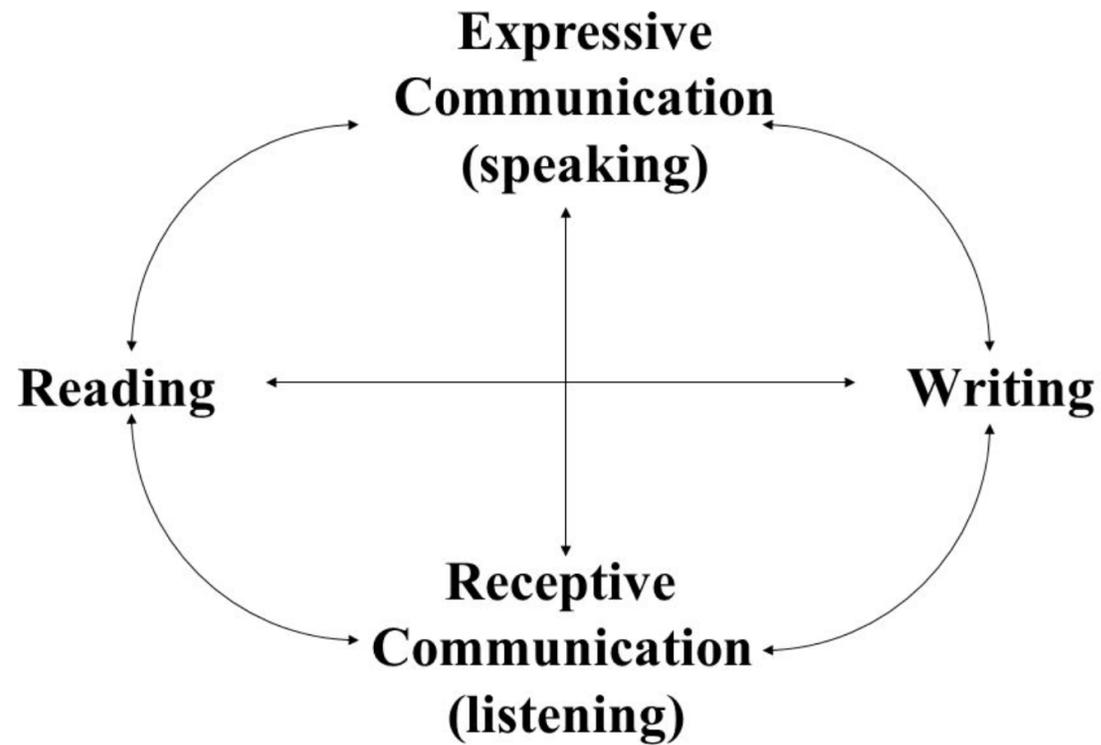
Then we'll bust them...

Myth # 1: Mastery Matters

1. spelling
2. test
3. friday 
4. why



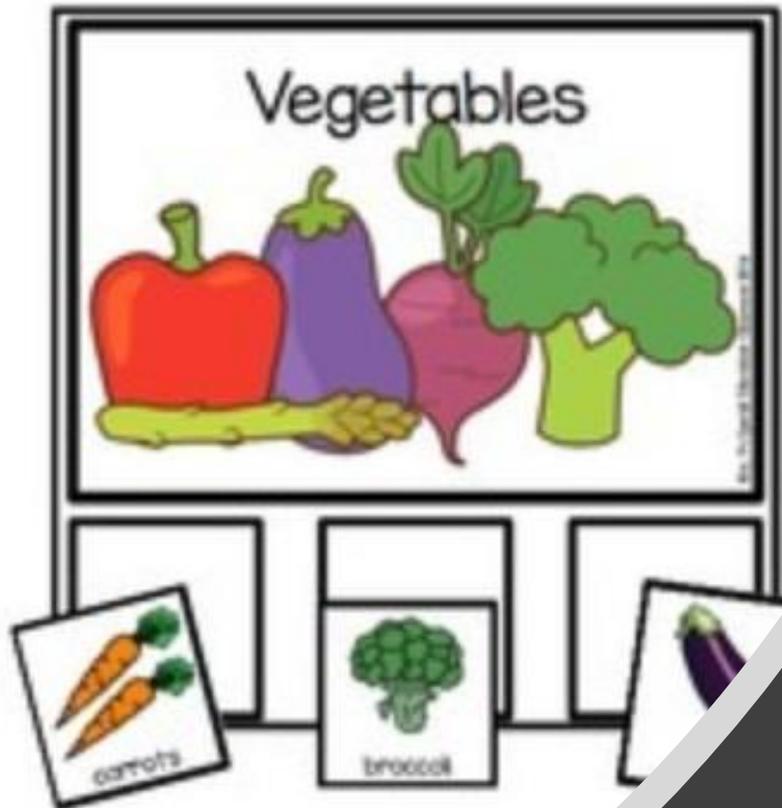
~~Myth #1: Mastery Matters~~
Think spiral, not staircase



Oral and Written Language Development

(Koppenhaver, Coleman, Kalman & Yoder, 1991
adapted from Teale & Sulzby, 1989)

Functional Literacy Everyday Items Sort



Myth #2:
It's too late to
learn to read
and write.



“No student is too
anything to be
able to read and
write”

David Yoder, DJI-AbleNet
Literacy Lecture, ISAAC
2000

~~Myth #2: It's too
late to learn to
read and write.~~

Let's teach this
flexible, complete
symbol set:

a b c d e f
g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t
u v w x y z

OVER 1 MILLION COPIES SOLD

PEDAGOGY

OF THE

WITH AN UPDATED INTRODUCTION BY DONALDO MACEDO

50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

OPPRESSED

PAULO FREIRE

BLOOMSBURY

Myth #3: Learners
are like banks.

~~Myth #3: Learners
are like banks.~~
Think of learning as
a social construct.



Let's do this
instead:

- Cultivate our relationships.
- Apply the 90/10 ratio of teaching to testing.



Myth # 4:
Phonics
instruction is
all they need.



~~Myth #4:~~
~~Phonics~~
~~instruction is~~
~~all they need.~~

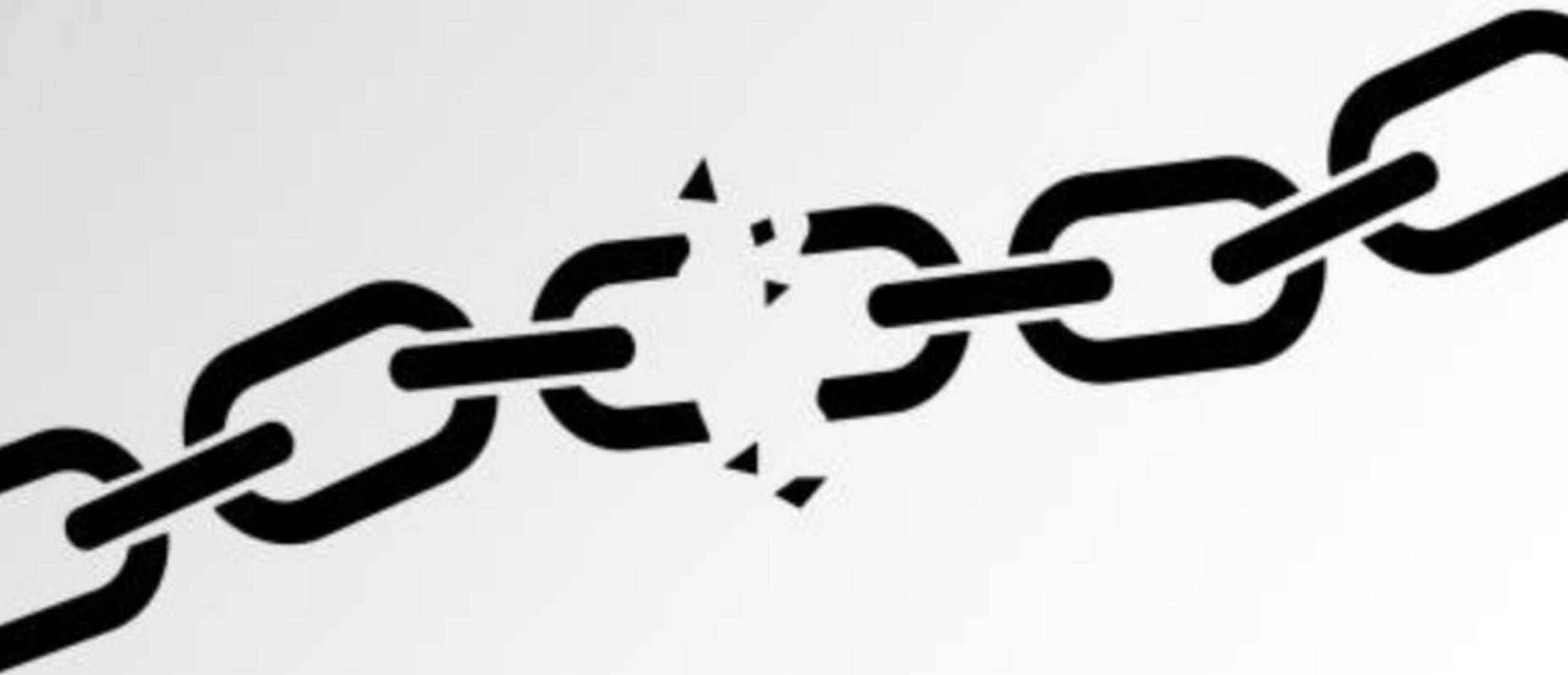
Comprehensive
Instruction = Success

Daily Emergent Interventions

Shared Reading
Predictable Chart Writing
Alphabet & Phonological Awareness
Independent Writing with access to full
alphabet
Self-Directed Reading
Symbol-based Communication (with few
exceptions)

Daily Conventional Interventions

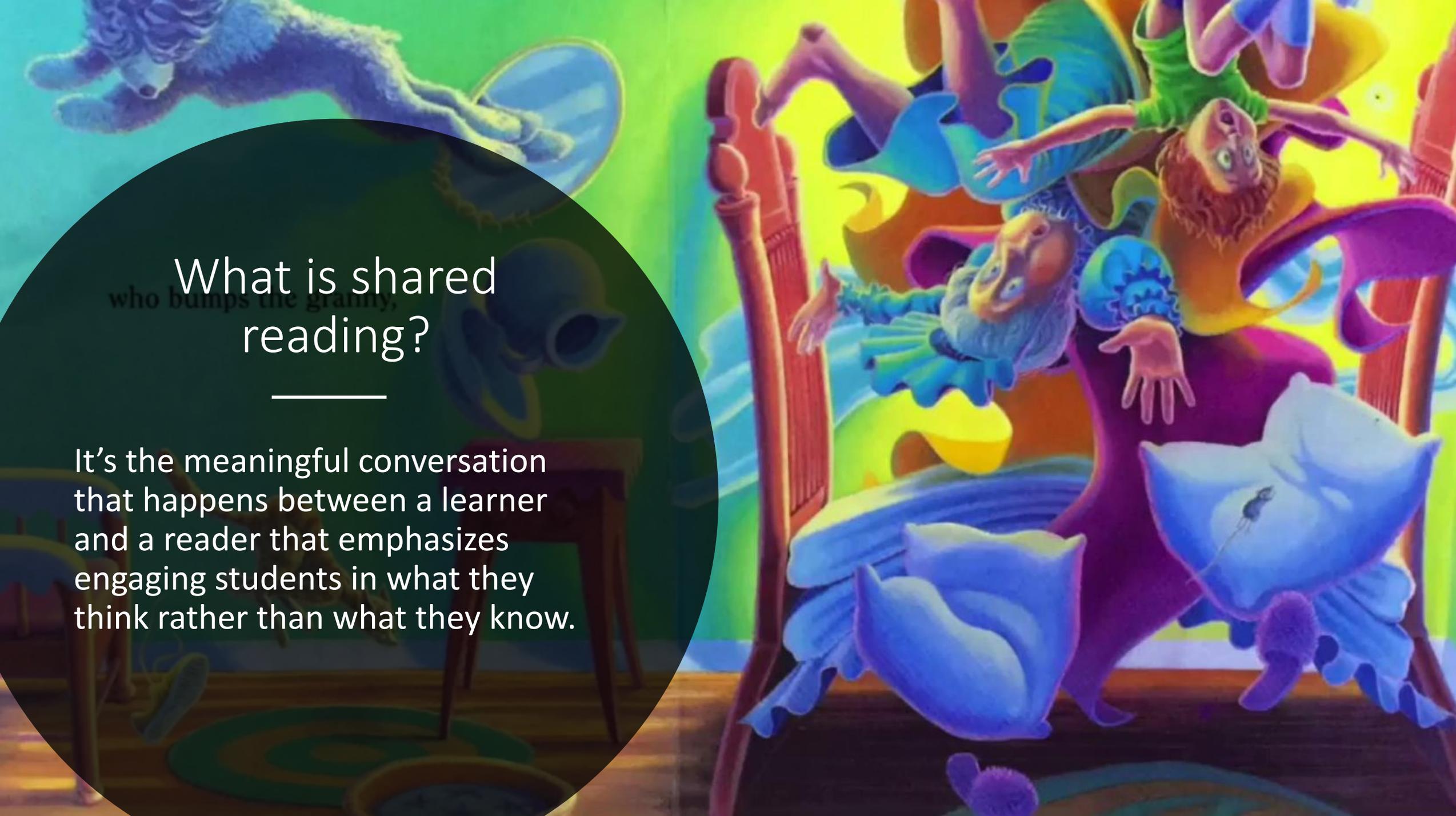
Guided Reading (Anchor-Read-Apply)
Word Study (Key Words + Word Wall +
Making Words)
Writing
Self-Directed Reading
Communication with symbols + spelling



So what do we do?

These things....
as often as possible.





What is shared reading?

It's the meaningful conversation that happens between a learner and a reader that emphasizes engaging students in what they think rather than what they know.

The goals are to help students:

- build background knowledge
- learn new words
- establish concepts of print
- connect to the pleasures and purposes of reading



How to:



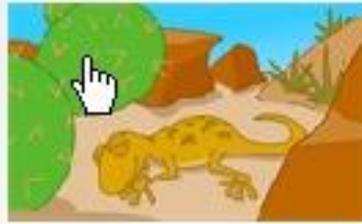
A crocodile is not a good pet.

- Comment (wait)...
- Ask (wait)...
- Respond (wait)...

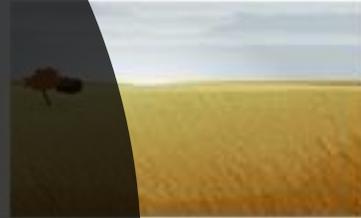


What is self-directed reading?

a time for students to explore and read books independently at their own level.



Prairie Sky



What Is a Habitat?



Welcome Home



Habitat Opposites



Where You Live



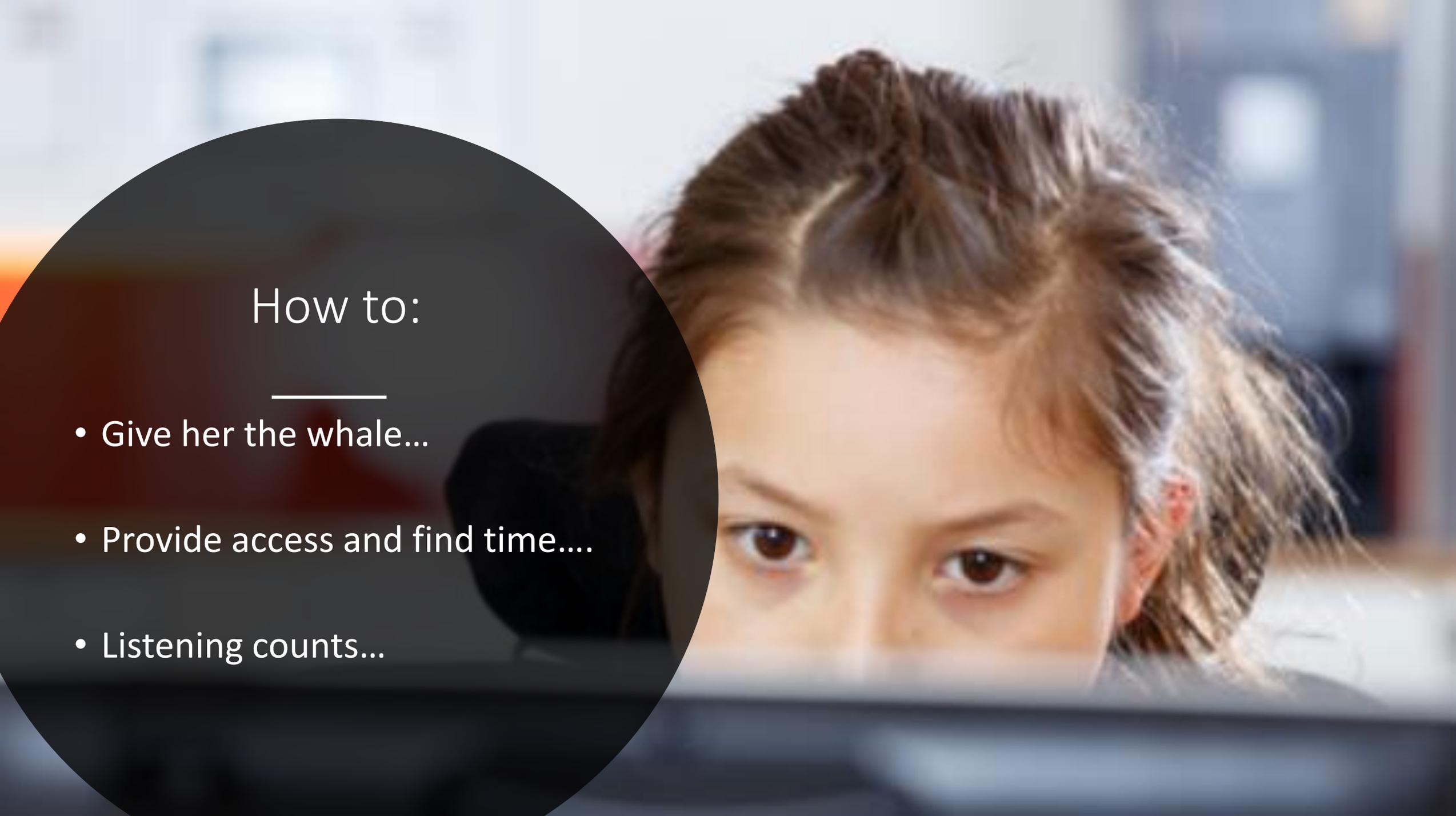
Be a Bee





The goal is to:

- create an authentic opportunity for students to see themselves as competent and engaged **readers**.
- *“If it ain’t selected by you, it ain’t self-selected reading.”*
- –Dave Koppenhaver



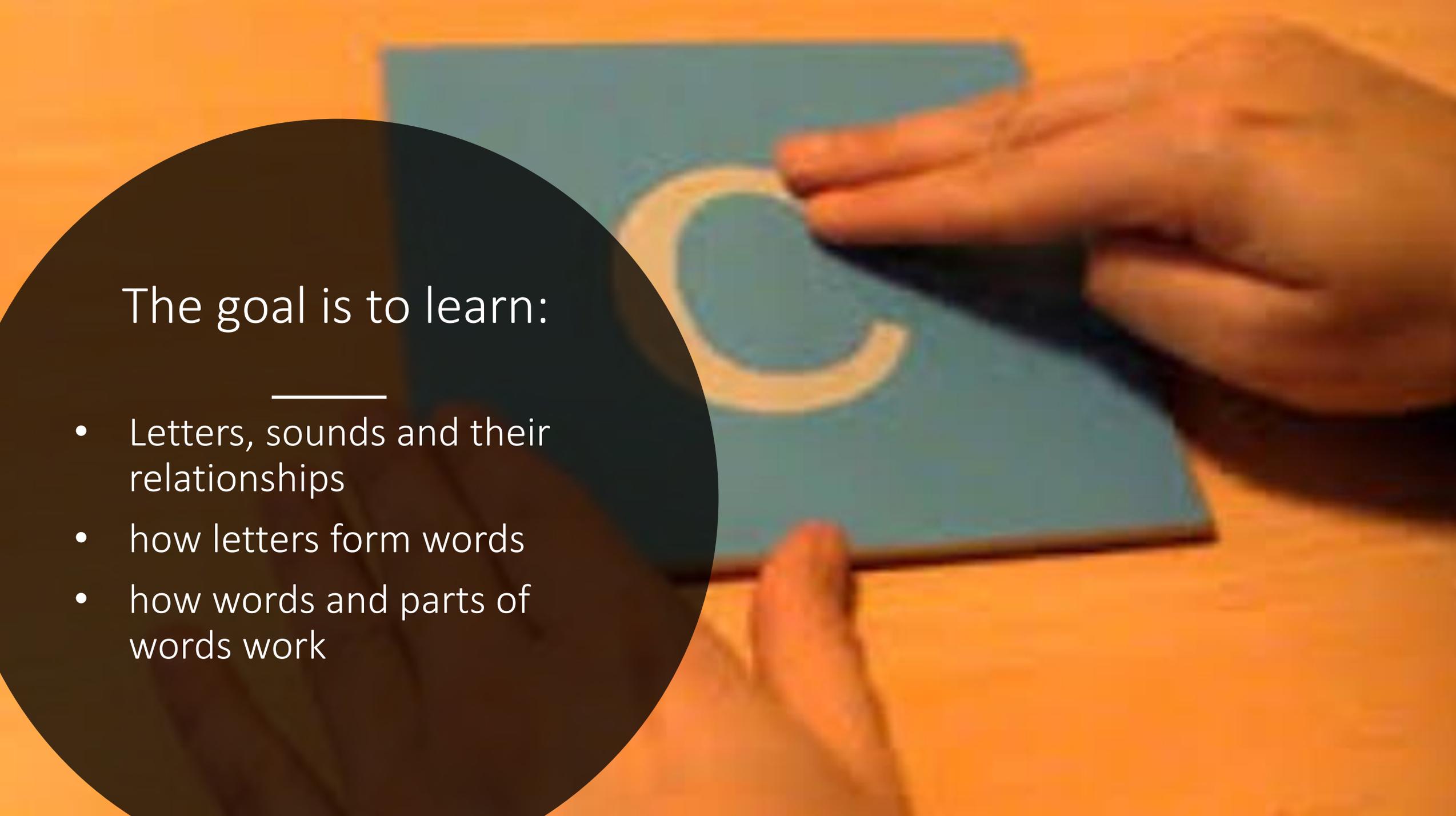
How to:

- Give her the whale...
- Provide access and find time....
- Listening counts...

What are alphabetical and phonological activities?

Include all the activities whereby a student begins to identify and manipulate the units of language which include letters, sounds, words, and smaller parts of words.



A close-up photograph of a hand tracing a white letter 'C' on a blue card. The background is a warm, orange-toned surface. A dark circular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing text.

The goal is to learn:

-
- Letters, sounds and their relationships
 - how letters form words
 - how words and parts of words work

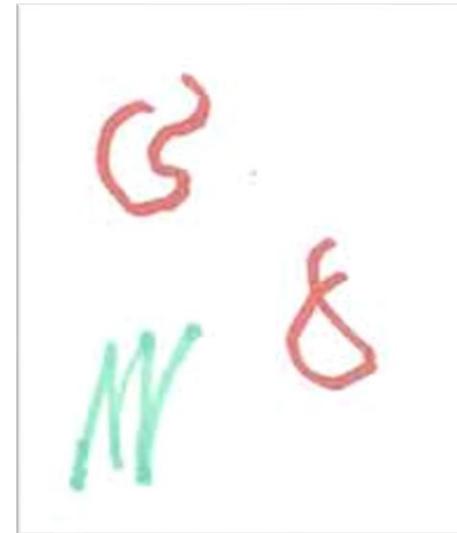
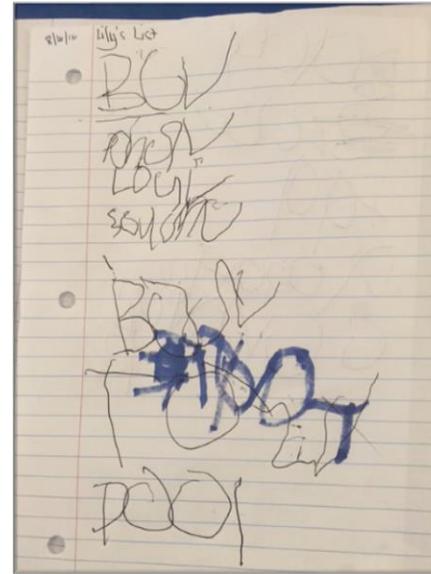
How to:

- Think patterns not just letters & sounds...
- Connect these activities to text
- Play-based and exploratory in nature



What is emergent writing?

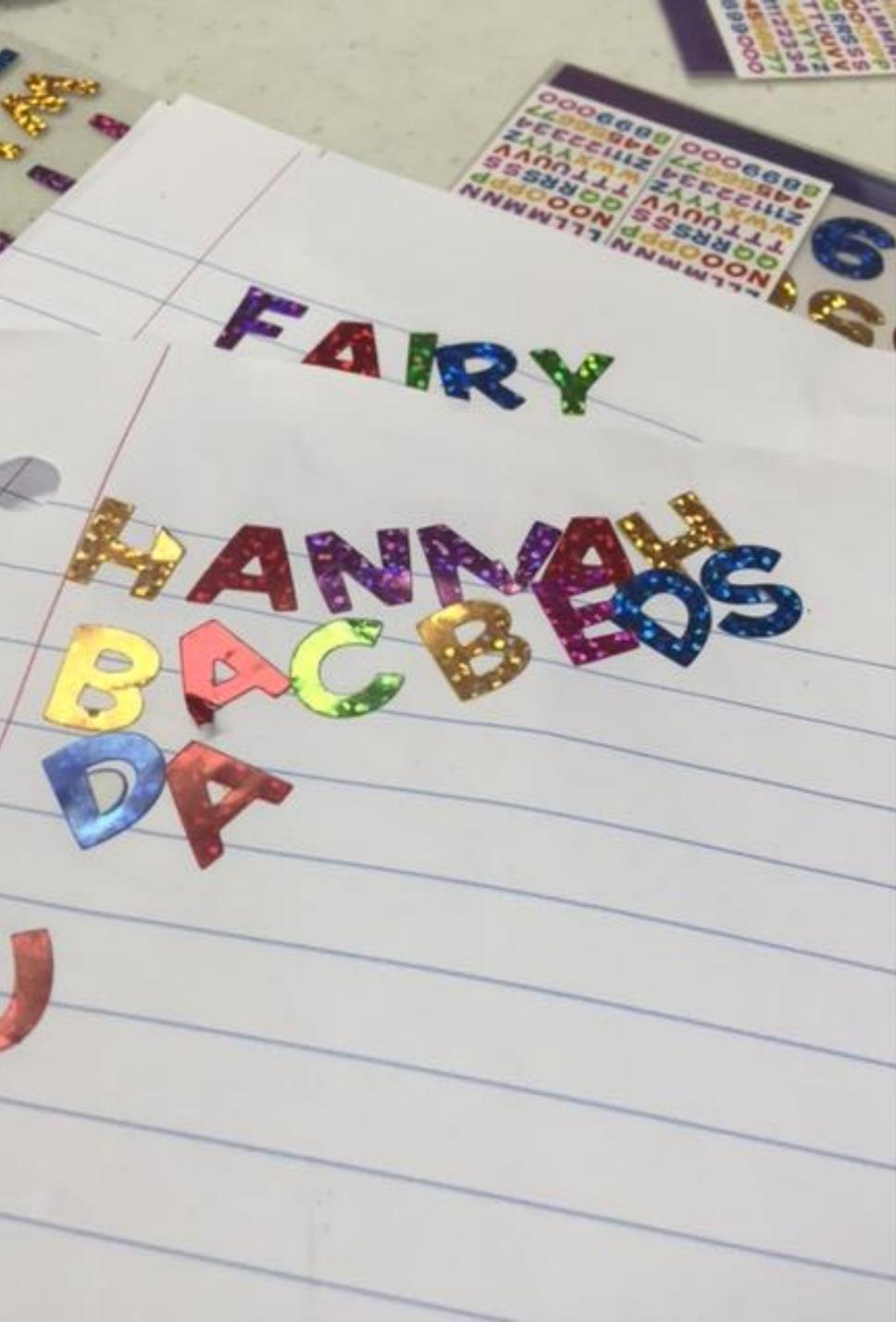
All the marks, lines, scribbles, and randomly selected letters, and letter-like forms of beginning writers.



The goal is to:

Help students understand that writing is how we represent thoughts, wishes, needs, and ideas.





How to:

- Find a pencil...
- Provide the entire alphabet...
- Emphasize meaning over convention...

With AAC and
communication at the
heart of it all...



“As I shifted from classroom teacher to researcher and started to look much more closely at the use of AAC in schools, it became clear that the language- and print-rich learning environment paired with the thoughtful use of AAC was responsible for student gains; **one or the other on its own is insufficient.**”

---Erickson 2017

When?
Every day!



Key Reading Resources:

www.tarheelreader.com

www.Bookshare.org

www.Youtube.com

www.audible.com

www.litdis.com

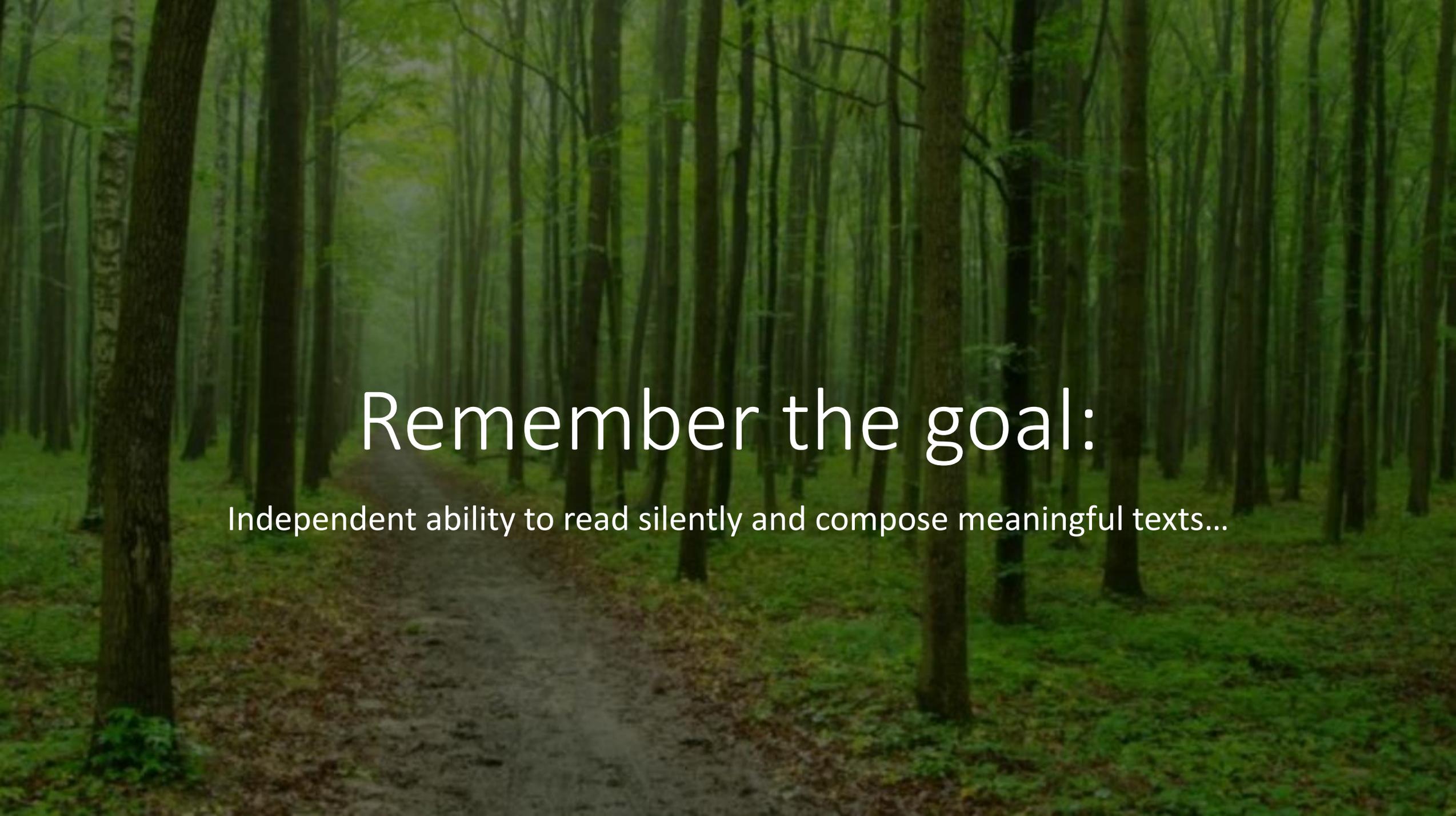
Key Writing Resources:

www.project-core.org

www.boardmakeronline.com

Co:writer by Don Johnston...

www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clds/products/available-for-purchase

A misty forest with a path leading through tall trees. The scene is serene and slightly hazy, with a path of fallen leaves and dirt leading into the distance. The trees are tall and thin, with green foliage visible in the background.

Remember the goal:

Independent ability to read silently and compose meaningful texts...



Questions? Comments?

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