



To: Teachers and Parents

Topic: **Recovery- Essential skills for reading**

Message Objective(s):

Learners should be able to acquire and use the essential skills for reading.

Message:

Curriculum recovery is important because it transforms a child's experience at school and provides structure and ensures that teachers are delivering content in the most effective way. Reading plays a pivotal role in curriculum recovery. Reading is essential and serves as a basic building block for all learning. Reading is a process that requires a variety of skills. Reading must be taught and cannot be acquired incidentally. Learners need to be exposed to a lot of reading both at home and at school.

Some of the skills needed for reading are:

1. **Decoding**- learners use this skill to sound out words. Decoding relies on a language skill called *phonemic awareness* where learners hear individual sounds and connect the sounds to letters.
2. **Phonological awareness** at home can be built through activities like word games and exposing the learners to a lot of reading.
3. **Fluency** – speeds up the rate at which learners can read and understand a text. When learners can identify words instantly then they can read quickly without making too many errors. It is important for parents and teachers to help learners to practise reading.
4. **Vocabulary**- having a strong vocabulary is a key component of reading comprehension. Parents and teachers can help build the children's vocabulary by having frequent conversations on a variety of topics.
5. **Sentence construction and cohesion**- Knowing how ideas link up at the sentence level helps learners to get meaning from passages and entire texts.
6. **Reasoning and background knowledge**- learners need prior knowledge about their environment, situations, and contexts.
7. **Working memory and attention** – when learners read, **attention** allows them to take in information from the text. **Working memory** allows learners to hold on to information and use it to gain meaning and build knowledge from what they are reading. Parents can help their



children's attention by reading material that is interesting and motivating. Children's working memory can be encouraged through several everyday activities and games.

Having difficulties in reading does not mean that the child is not intelligent, but some children need extra time, support and encouragement to make progress.

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Reference: EFAL SP GRADE 7,8 AND 9 REVISED ATP TRACKERS
<https://nect.org.za/materials/recovery-atps-trackers>