

Reading Road Trip

An IDA Ontario Podcast

Episode 3: Dr. Holly Lane

Dr. Holly Lane is the Director of the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI), an associate professor of special education, and co-author of the UFLI Foundations program. Holly's research focuses on effective practices for reading instruction and intervention. In **Episode 3**, she unpacks key considerations for teaching foundational reading and writing skills. We've assembled some points to support your discussions with colleagues, or use **#ReadingRoadTrip** on social media to join the broader conversation!

Key Takeaways

"Actually, if they are including letters, it is **both** phonemic awareness and phonics instruction if kids are blending and segmenting sounds." (3:38)

"When we think of explicit instruction, the less you already know, the more important the explicit instruction is." (9:00)

"You can be explicit, and systematic, and developmentally appropriate, all at the same time." (9:54)

"Let's just use the word blend as a verb, not as a noun." (30:10)

Let's Discuss

1 – Holly unpacks some considerations for using and organizing sound–spelling walls. Have you explored sound–spelling walls? Is there additional learning you need to use this scaffold in foundational instruction?

2 – Kate emphasizes that while phonics instruction is widespread, we should be mindful to ensure it is **explicit** and **systematic**. What recent shifts have you made in your phonics instruction? What are opportunities for continued growth?

3 – Holly cautions against phonics scopes and sequences that teach all letter–sounds first before teaching students to read and spell words with those sounds. Looking at your scope and sequence, are students able to read and spell words in early phonics instruction? Do your phonics resources meet the criteria Holly suggests?

A Step Further

UFLI Foundations is a systematic, explicit phonics program. With a scope and sequence for kindergarten to grade 2 students, the program is carefully designed to support educators in providing effective early reading and spelling instruction. The program is composed of a manual (available from [Canadian](#), [American](#), and [Australian](#) vendors) as well as [free online lesson resources](#).

In the episode, Kate mentioned that her anecdotal evidence was just that – anecdotal. In this [Science or Snake Oil](#) webinar, Holly walks through different levels of evidence in science, and how to use science to distinguish fact from fiction.



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