



# THE BC PARENTS' GUIDE TO EARLY LITERACY SCREENING

## Decode the New Kindergarten Reading Check And Help Your Child Thrive

*A practical, jargon-free resource for BC families:*

- *Understand your child's screening results*
- *Learn key reading terms (without the jargon)*
- *Find the best next steps for support*

# Table of Contents

## What & Why: 03

Demystifying the New Screening

## Decoding the Report Card: 04

Jargon Buster

## Actionable Next Steps: 06

What To Do Tonight

## BC Resources Map: 08

Where to Find Help

## Your Specialized Solution: 09

The Next Step



# 01

## What & Why: Demystifying the New Screening

Big changes are here for BC families. Starting this year, all kindergarteners will have their early reading skills screened at school.

### **Why?**

The goal is to identify reading challenges early, before frustration sets in, by utilizing the Science of Reading (SoR). This isn't a test, and it's not a label. It's a chance to get timely support.

### **Reassurance:**

Screening isn't a pass/fail. It's simply a snapshot of foundational skills. It doesn't measure giftedness or diagnose learning disabilities.

### **What's NOT Assessed:**

- Creative writing ability
- Intelligence or IQ
- Love of stories

It's all about the building blocks for reading.



# 02

## Decoding the Report Card: The Jargon Buster

*Ever see a school report and wonder what all those terms mean?  
Here's your cheat sheet.*

Term on Report	Explanation	Why You Should Care / Link to Tutoring
<b>Phonological Awareness</b>	Hearing & playing with sounds in words (like rhyming, clapping syllables)	If low: This is foundational. We use games to build it.
<b>Phonics / Alphabetic Principle</b>	Connecting letters to their sounds ("c" says /k/)	If low: Your child may need systematic phonics help.
<b>Decoding</b>	Sounding out new words	If low: Needs explicit strategy, not just guessing.
<b>Nonsense Word Fluency</b>	Reading made-up words like "mip", "zat"	If low: Shows if they can decode, not just memorize.
<b>Blending &amp; Segmenting</b>	Putting sounds together ("c-a-t" = "cat") and pulling them apart	If low: These skills are 100% teachable with practice.
<b>Letter Naming Fluency (LNF)</b>	The speed and accuracy with which your child can name upper- and lower-case letters (e.g., quickly saying "A, b, C, d...").	If low: This is a crucial predictor of future reading success. Knowing letter names helps link them to sounds (Phonics).

Term on Report	Explanation	Why You Should Care / Link to Tutoring
<b>Oral Reading Fluency (ORF)</b>	The speed, accuracy, and expression with which your child reads connected text (a full paragraph or story).	If low: Shows your child is spending too much energy sounding out words instead of understanding them.
<b>Phoneme Segmentation (PSF)</b>	Breaking a word into its smallest sounds (e.g., saying /k/ - /a/ - /t/ for "cat"). This is a part of Phonological Awareness.	If low: This specific skill is one of the strongest indicators for later reading success.
<b>Letter-Sound Correspondence</b>	Knowing what sound(s) each written letter or letter combination makes (e.g., 'sh' says /sh/).	If low: This is a fundamental phonics deficit. Your child will rely too much on memorizing sight words.
<b>Accuracy (on ORF measure)</b>	The percentage of words read correctly when reading a passage (usually 95% is the goal).	If low: A low accuracy rate means your child is missing too many words to understand the story.
<b>Tier 1</b>	The core reading instruction all students receive in the main classroom (e.g., the daily 90-minute literacy block).	Good news: Your child is responding well to the core curriculum and is on track.
<b>Tier 2</b>	Targeted, small-group intervention in addition to Tier 1, usually 2-3 times per week, focused on specific skill gaps (like phonics or blending).	If recommended: This is an early flag. Your child needs strategic support to prevent a gap from widening. This is where outside tutoring can align with and boost school efforts.
<b>Tier 3 / Intensive</b>	Most intensive, individualized support in addition to Tier 1, delivered frequently and focusing on foundational skills.	If recommended: Your child is showing significant risk for long-term reading difficulty. This is often the precursor to a learning disability assessment and requires a specialized, structured program.

Term on Report	Explanation	Why You Should Care / Link to Tutoring
<b>SoR (Science of Reading)</b>	Research-backed methods for teaching reading	Our program is SoR-aligned. No guesswork, just results.
<b>Dyslexia</b>	A brain-based difference in learning to read	Early help changes everything.
<b>OG (Orton-Gillingham)</b>	Step-by-step, multisensory reading instruction	Gold standard for dyslexia—what we use at The Literacy Corner.
<b>Benchmark</b>	The “expected” score for this age/grade	Below? Don’t panic. It just means more focused practice.

# 03

## Actionable Next Steps: What Do I Do Tonight?

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You don't need fancy tools to help your child build reading skills right now.

Here are **5 quick**, no-pressure activities:

- 1 Rhyme Time in the Car:** Pick a word (“cat”) and take turns making up rhymes.
- 2 Sound Detective:** Say a word, and ask your child to clap for each sound (“dog” = 3 claps).
- 3 Letter Hunt:** On a walk, spot as many signs with a certain letter as possible.
- 4 Silly Words Game:** Make up “nonsense” words and ask your child to try reading them.
- 5 Positive Self-Talk:** Start each reading session with, “I’m a successful reader, and I’m still learning.”

\* These games help, but if your child is flagged as “at risk,” targeted intervention is essential. Home practice supports school and tutoring—not a replacement for it.



# BC Resources: Where to Find Help



BC Ministry of  
Education

[The official resource for the K-12 Literacy  
Supports Initiative, including FAQs.](#)

Decoda Literacy  
Solutions

[PALS/IPALS for preschool/kindergarten age.](#)

Dyslexia  
Handbook &  
Resources

[Free national resources that help Canadian  
families navigate the education system.](#)

Local Library

Most BC libraries offer free storytimes, early literacy workshops, and summer reading clubs. Ask your branch for details.



# Your Specialized Solution: The Next Step

If your child's results showed a score below the benchmark, don't wait and hope it "clicks." Early, targeted support leads to better outcomes and happier readers.

## Why The Literacy Corner?

- ✓ Certified in Orton-Gillingham (OG) and Science of Reading (SoR)
- ✓ Support tailored for dyslexia and all reading differences
- ✓ Flexible online and in-person options
- ✓ Empathy, experience, and proven results


## ✓ Translate Your Child's Score



Ready to turn your child's BC screening report into a clear action plan?

Let's review their actual scores, pinpoint the exact skill gaps, and discuss a personalized path forward.

**BOOK YOUR FREE 30-MINUTE SCORE REVIEW**

 (604) 991-3916

 [www.theliteracycorner.ca](http://www.theliteracycorner.ca)

 [admin@theliteracycorner.ca](mailto:admin@theliteracycorner.ca)