

## Strengthening Early Education in Schools, Districts, and States: Resources for Educators



Strong instruction is critical to the success of students in schools, districts, and states. The ten Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) have developed resources for educators who work to prepare our youngest learners for school and to help them be successful in the early grades. The resources included here, which are representative of many that have been developed by RELs, address a number of important topics, and may help educators expand their knowledge in these areas. The resources are in a variety of formats including reports, infographics, fact sheets, blogs, toolkits, webinars, and videos. To access resources from any of the ten RELs, go to <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs>.

### Literacy Instruction for Young Learners

Educators have the critical task of helping young students build strong literacy skills from the very beginning. RELs have developed numerous resources that can assist educators of young learners as they provide instruction in foundational literacy skills.



[The Importance of Early Literacy for Future Success](#) (REL Pacific) *Infographic*



[On Course for Reading Success: Best Practices for Teaching Beginning Readers](#) (REL Midwest) *Infographic*



[Phonological Awareness: The Sounds of Reading](#) (REL Appalachia) *Blog*



[Interactive Writing Instruction Online with Young Children](#) (REL West) *Video*



[English Learner Students Webinar Series](#) (REL West) *Webinars*

[How Educators in Alaska Can Build Students' Early Literacy Skills in In-Person and Online Learning Environments](#) (REL Northwest) *Infographic*



## Professional Development and Resources to Strengthen Early Literacy Instruction and Support English Learners

The following resources regarding effective early literacy instruction may help educators increase their knowledge of evidence-based practices and support classroom implementation.



[Professional Learning Community: Emergent Literacy](#) (REL Southeast) *PLC*



[Professional Learning Community: Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding in Kindergarten through 3rd Grade practice guide](#) (REL Southeast) *PLC*



[Effectiveness of Early Literacy Instruction - Summary of 20 Years of Research](#) (REL Southeast) *Report*



[English Learner Students Webinar Series](#) (REL West) *Webinars*



## Mathematics Instruction for Young Learners

Young learners can develop mathematical skills that will serve as the foundation for their future learning as they progress through school. RELs have developed several products that may help educators as they provide math instruction for young children.



[Two Classroom Strategies to Reduce Students' Math Anxiety](#) (REL Northwest) *Video*



[Building Positive Math Attitudes Training Series](#) (REL Northwest) *Training materials*



[Early Childhood Math Videos](#) (REL Central) *Videos*



## Learning and Play

Evidence-based practices can be effectively implemented through play-based learning. In addition, a play-based approach may benefit childrens' social-emotional development. Several products produced by RELs can be helpful to educators as they use play as a means of instruction in their classrooms.



[Play as a Teaching Strategy for Children in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 3: Findings from the Evidence Review](#) (REL Mid-Atlantic) *Report*



[Kindergarten: Where Play and Learning Can Meet](#) (REL Midwest) *Video*



[Integrating Play into Literacy Instruction: Strategies for your Classroom](#) (REL Midwest) *Video*



[Integrating Play into Literacy Instruction: Interview with Tim Shanahan](#) (REL Midwest) *Video*



[Play and Learn: Effectiveness of Play as a Teaching Strategy in the Early Grades](#) (REL Mid-Atlantic) *Blog*



## School/Classroom Climate and Partnering with Families and the Community

Educators who provide a welcoming environment in their classrooms and schools can foster a sense of belonging for young children. Developing positive relationships with families and the community can enhance the classroom environment and encourage opportunities for children to learn outside the school day. RELs have created a number of resources to help educators consider ways to ensure that the climate is positive and conducive to learning, and to develop partnerships with families, organizations, and the community.



[A Kindergarten Teacher's Guide to Supporting Family Involvement in Foundational Reading Skills](#) (REL Southeast) *Tool*



[Supporting Young English Learners at Home](#) (REL West, REL Midwest, REL Northeast and the Islands) *Activity sheets and educators' guide*



[Engaging Families for Math Success](#) (REL Appalachia) *Blog*



[Community Math Nights](#) (REL Appalachia) *Facilitators guide and presentation*



[Shifting the Current School Climate](#) (REL Northwest) *Infographic*



[Strategies for Improving Attendance in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten: Toolkit for Districts, Schools, and Early Childhood Providers](#) (REL Mid-Atlantic) *Report*



[Fact Sheet: Supporting School Transitions for Young Learners: Considerations in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond](#) (REL Mid-Atlantic) *Fact sheet*



This infographic was developed by the cross-REL working group focused on school readiness and early education.

Check out these resources for educational leaders and families, too:

- [Strengthening Early Education in Schools, Districts and States: Resources for Educational Leaders](#)
- [Strengthening Early Education in Schools, Districts and States: Resources for Families](#)

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