

Overview and Visual Representation of Overall Processes Required for Proficient Reading

Proficient reading is a complex learned skill requiring the mastery, integration and application of numerous subskills and knowledge. It involves both 1) establishing a foundation of phonologic processing of print and 2) developing higher level or advanced skills.

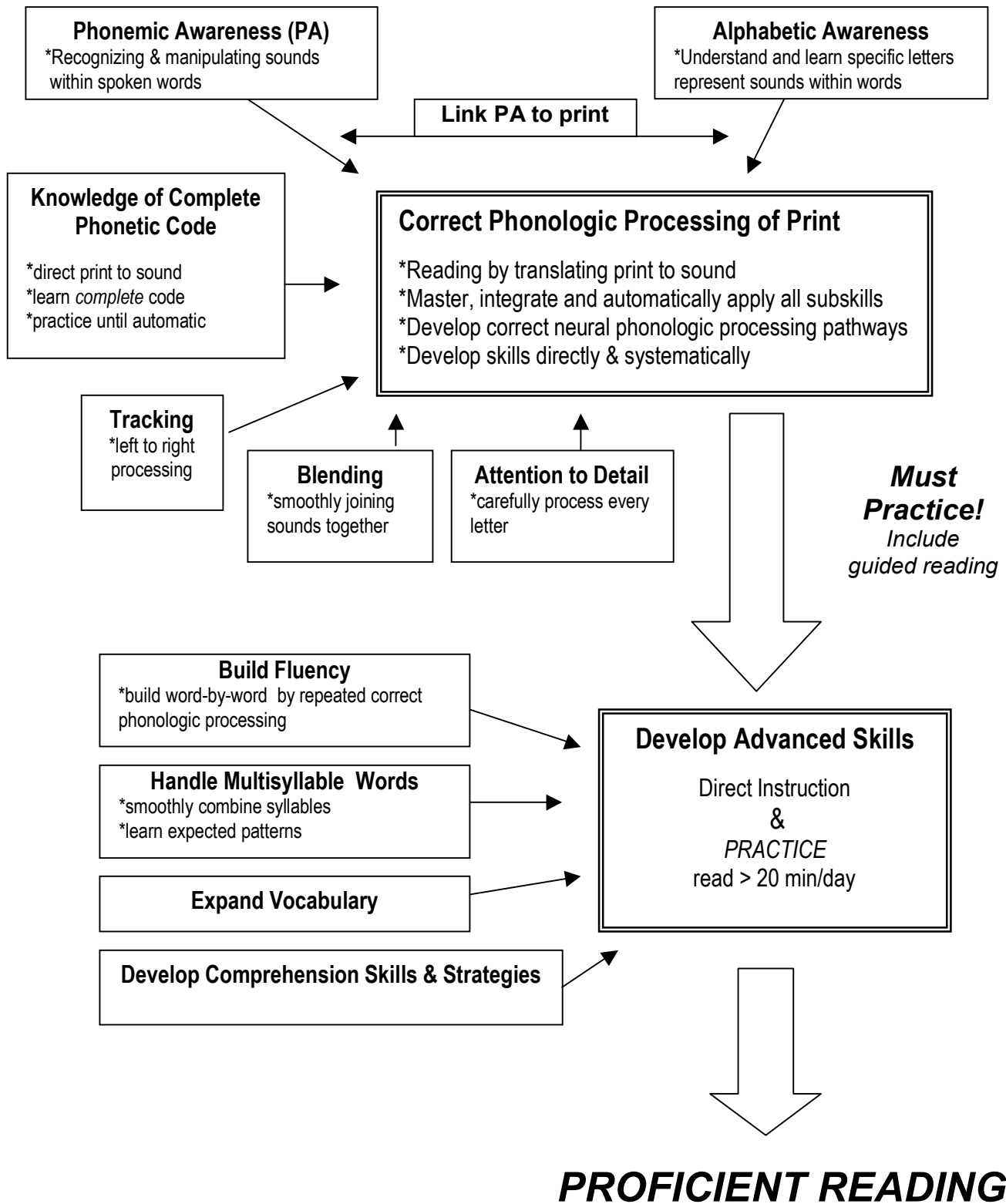
Correct phonologic processing of print is the essential foundation for proficient reading. To become a skilled reader, the student must convert print to sound and build 'proficient reader' neural processing pathways. To establish correct phonologic processing, the student needs to master, integrate and apply skills and knowledge in phonemic awareness, knowledge of the complete phonemic code, smooth blending, proper directional tracking and attention to detail. The student also needs to practice!

Obviously proficient reading is more complex correct phonologic processing. Correct phonologic processing provides the essential foundational process of accurate and effortless decoding. Proficient reading requires higher level skills. After foundational skills are established it is equally important to help the student develop **advanced or higher level skills** including handling multisyllable word, building fluency, expanding vocabulary and developing comprehension skills and strategies.

The most effective and efficient method of insuring your student becomes a skilled reader is to intentional and directly teach all necessary skills in a complete and systematic manner. Parents and teachers can use targeted activities to directly teach necessary skills, intentionally build correct phonologic processing pathways, and develop higher level advanced skills.

For illustration purposes, this diagram simplifies the complex process of reading. In reality, these necessary skills are not isolated tasks. The interrelated skills must be acquired, mastered, integrated, applied and PRACTICED! For more detailed explanation of individual skills, see the article *Skills Necessary for Proficient Reading*.

Additional informative articles and resources on teaching students to read proficiently are located on the [Free Reading Information](#) page of the Right Track Reading website.



This article was written by Miscese Gagen a mother with a passion for teaching children to read proficiently by using effective methods. She is also a successful reading tutor and author of the reading instructional programs *Right Track Reading Lessons* and *Back on the Right Track Reading Lessons*. The purpose of this article is to empower parents and teachers with information on teaching children how to read. We CAN improve reading proficiency, one student at a time! More information is located at www.righttrackreading.com ~ Copyright 2007 Miscese R. Gagen