

## Launch Literacy by Starting Smart

Oral language (OL) is central to *every* aspect of literacy, which is why it is at the core of the [Literacy How Reading wheel](#) as well as the [launchpad for phonological awareness](#). Whatever your students' stage of literacy development, give essential OL its due by incorporating it as an intentional practice, rather than leaving it to chance.



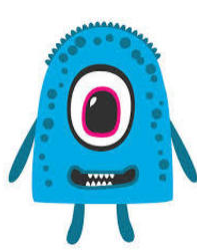
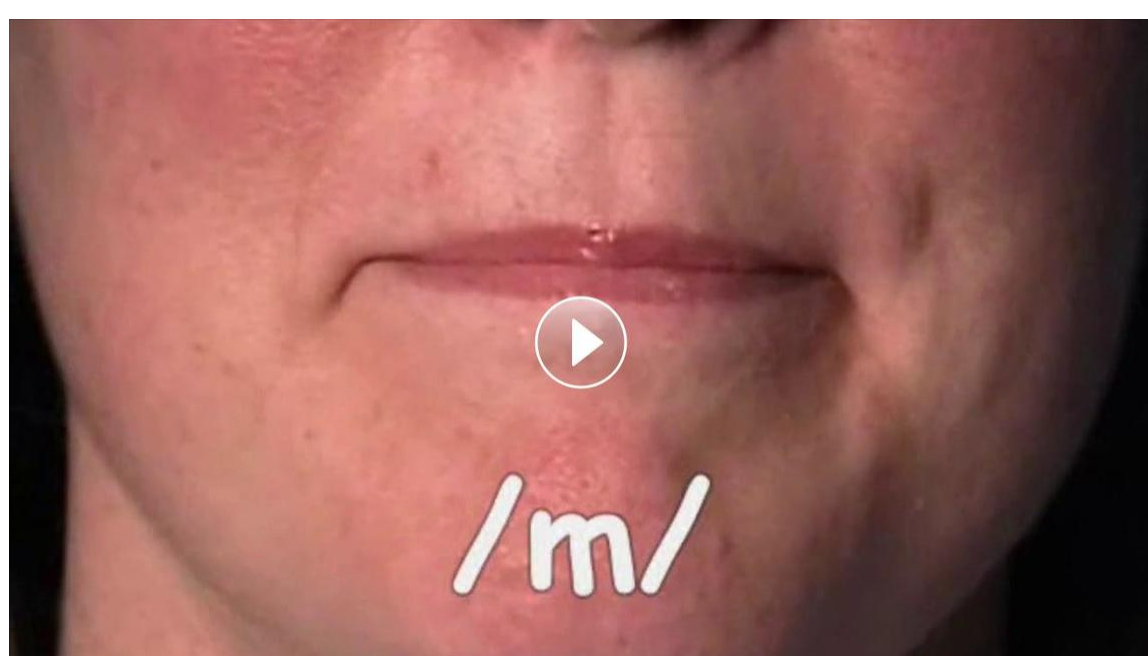
### Practice Oral Language with Purposeful Partners

Establish classroom routines for oral language practice by assigning “purposeful partners” as talking and working buddies. Introduced to Literacy How by Sara Tellman Veloz, purposeful partners takes “think, pair, share” to the next level.

- Think carefully about how to pair students to increase rigor and cognitive output; this may take up to three weeks of trial and error.
- Consider your students’ behavior and cognition—e.g., will pairing two quiet students prompt each to speak up, while pairing chatty students help them be better listeners?
- Formally train partners to turn toward each other, to look each other in the eyes, to each take a turn answering a prompt, and to be alert for a call back signal.
- Integrate a brief purposeful partner task into every activity to increase numbers of students participating and to develop an efficient, familiar routine.

## Perfect your Phoneme Pronunciation

Research has provided [extensive evidence](#) of the importance of phonemic awareness (PA) from a developmental perspective, as well as in terms of specific populations—ELLs, dyslexics, and older struggling readers. Harness the full power of PA by pronouncing each phoneme correctly. Do not add /ü / at the end; clip the sound instead.



### Make Phonemic Awareness F-U-N!

In many classrooms, routines and programs play a central role in explicit, systematic, multisensory instruction. Whether or not you use a program to develop phonological and phonemic awareness, try these kid-friendly, fun activities (and more) from our book [Phonemic awareness and phonics: Knowledge to practice](#).

Pack your bags, we're [Going on a Trip](#) to learn about segmentation. Watch [Aliens from Outer Space](#) to see how ETs can help students practice blending.

And to think, all this learning is necessary before you've even attached symbols to sounds!

**DATE CHANGE: Open House is now October 7!**

## LITERACY HOW OPEN HOUSE

101 Merritt Blvd., Suite 210, Trumbull, CT

**NEW DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019**  
4-7 PM

**IF ATTENDING, RSVP:**  
KIMHERARD@LITERACYHOW.COM

**5 PM Sneak Preview by Margie Gillis**  
*Comprehension: Knowledge to Practice*  
The fourth title in the Literacy How Professional Learning Series

**Build a (Background) Knowledge Tree**

Sip a signature cocktail or sparkling water  
Mingle and munch with Margie and the team  
Tour our new office  
Enter a drawing for free books!



## 2019 Special Education in Connecticut Summit

The Science of Dyslexia & Teaching Reading to Students With Disabilities in Connecticut

**DATE:** Friday, October 4

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Hartford Marriott Downtown, 200 Columbus Blvd., Hartford

**Register by 9/20.** Summit features a keynote presentation by Emily Hanford, senior education correspondent at American Public Media Reports.