

## **Overview**

The UFLC (Universal Framework for Literacy and Communication) provides professional development on a specialized small group literacy instruction model called Flamingo Small Group Literacy Instruction. This model is designed to help educators apply research-based reading theories to effective teaching practices. Its primary goal is to enhance teachers' understanding of the reading process and how children learn to read, with a focus on both decoding and fluency development (increased reading rate, accuracy, and prosody).

The model emphasizes explicit, systematic, and direct instruction to promote reading skills, particularly for students with dyslexia, who often require more structured support in both oral and written language. Research indicates that all students, regardless of their reading abilities, benefit from this type of instruction. Key elements of this approach align with Structured Literacy (SL), an evidence-based method recognized by the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) as the most effective for students with significant reading challenges.

The Explicit Word Instruction component focuses on phonological processing, offering daily practice with encoding and decoding skills through hands-on, manipulative letter activities tailored to students' needs and aligned with the school's core curriculum. This is especially beneficial for students with dyslexia, whose difficulties often stem from deficits in phonological processing, making it hard to connect sounds with written symbols.