

Program Overview

The UFLC provides professional learning on a specific small group literacy instructional model to help teachers translate reading research and theory into instructional practice. *Flamingo Small Group Literacy Instruction* serves as a tool to help teachers develop an in-depth understanding of the reading process and how a child learns to read. The model includes explicit, systematic instruction in decoding, reading practices to build fluency (i.e., increased reading rate, accuracy, and prosody), direct modeling and guided practice on strategies to promote student independence in the use of reading strategies, in particular strong metacognition. Individuals with dyslexia require explicit, direct and systematic instruction in both oral and written language. However, research shows that all students benefit from this type of instruction.

The professional learning plan equips participants with the literacy knowledge and pedagogy required to effectively diagnose and address the individual learning needs of students who are striving to become successful readers. Participants gain an understanding of the foundations of reading and are able to diagnose and provide targeted instruction in reading to students that are most at risk of school failure.