

## From 20 lessons → 20 Best practices

For 20 years, 95 Percent Group has been leading the way, building on science to empower teachers—supplying the knowledge, resources, and support they need to unlock the power of literacy for every child.

As an education community, we have learned so many lessons about the science of reading while working closely with devoted educators. **Now you can use this quick guide to take each lesson straight into action in your own district or school.**

### LESSON 1

A deep study of the data ensures that gaps are identified



IN ACTION

**Analyze student data regularly**

Conduct regular deep dives into assessment data to identify hidden skill gaps, even in high-performing students.

### LESSON 2

Professional learning unifies practice



IN ACTION

**Establish consistent instructional language**

Use shared language and teaching approaches across all grade levels to create unified literacy practices and reduce student cognitive load year-over-year.

“Coaching has provided classroom teachers and educators with a deep understanding of the vision for what each lesson should look like, their role in the lesson, and what they should expect from their students. **When teachers have a deep understanding, effectiveness increases, and it shows in student achievement and data.**”

**Jessica Abel-Pype**

School Principal, Dalton Elementary School, Aurora, Colorado

### LESSON 3

## Instructional gaps can (and should) be identified and addressed



### IN ACTION

### Address instructional gaps immediately

When intervention isn't working the way you know it could be, examine and strengthen Tier 1 core instruction before just adding more resources.

### LESSON 4

## Well-designed, research-aligned practices are good for all students



### IN ACTION

### Implement research-aligned practices daily

Choose evidence-based instructional methods and best practices that benefit all students, regardless of starting point.

### LESSON 5

## Evidence can advance district expansion



### IN ACTION

### Use pilot data to drive decisions

Test new programs with small groups and let student outcomes and teacher enthusiasm guide district-wide adoption choices. Teachers trust other teachers.

### LESSON 6

## Evidence informs implementation



### IN ACTION

### Learn from successful peers

Visit neighboring schools or districts to observe effective literacy practices in action in an environment that mirrors your own.



When we first began, I recorded a coach working through the beginning routines with 1st grade students when they had just started, and it was really challenging for both the students and the instructor to move through the materials and the hand signals at first. But the next year,” she continued, “I had the opportunity to record a 2nd grade teacher (the same students as the year before!), and the entire classroom was fully engaged through each component of the lesson like clockwork. I was floored. They had it down.”

**Gina Looney**

District reading and RTI coordinator, Franklin Special School District, Tennessee

## LESSON 7

### Persistence yields transformation



#### IN ACTION

#### Stay committed through implementation challenges

Maintain consistent program integrity for at least three years to see meaningful transformation.

## LESSON 8

### Early skill gaps drive later struggles



#### IN ACTION

#### Strengthen K-2 foundational skills

Prioritize explicit phonics instruction in early grades to prevent upper elementary reading struggles.

## LESSON 9

### A comprehensive approach yields strong results



#### IN ACTION

#### Take a comprehensive literacy approach

Address widespread skill deficits with [an aligned literacy ecosystem](#), rather than just targeted intervention.

## LESSON 10

### Community commitment accelerates comprehensive growth



#### IN ACTION

#### Build shared academic vocabulary

Teach students to articulate specific literacy skill knowledge like grapheme-phoneme relationships; and to use this terminology in context appropriate situations.



Because I have these instructional tools and turnkey resources, my teaching career can be longer. I can stay in the classroom without burning out—it actually feels like teacher care.”

**Sam Weir**

Secondary literacy interventionist, Rocky Mountain Prep Charter School Network, Colorado

## LESSON 11

### Turn-key resources free up teachers' instructional energy



#### IN ACTION

#### Use turn-key instructional materials

Implement structured programs with prepared lesson plans, ready-to-use materials, and clear instructional dialogue to maximize energy, consistency, and time spent with students.

## LESSON 12

### Targeted intervention in foundational skills unlocks progress for striving 4th and 5th grade students



#### IN ACTION

#### Provide daily foundational skills practice

Dedicate 30 minutes daily to systematic phonics instruction to see faster growth to grade level achievement.

## LESSON 13

### Grassroots support signals lasting change



#### IN ACTION

#### Listen to teacher advocacy

When educators request specific programs or resources, specifically in grades 3–5, consider their classroom-level insights seriously

## LESSON 14

### Skepticism lessens with the right implementation support



#### IN ACTION

#### Provide comprehensive implementation support to help shift uncertainty

Combine new curricula with ongoing coaching and professional development for increased confidence and lasting change.

“

I was hesitant about teaching phonics in 5th grade—I had never done that with 5th graders. But as we had additional support through training and modeling, we could see fully how it works in the classroom. So many of our kids were good readers—but they were hitting that wall of not being able to decode multisyllabic words. **The change has been incredible.**”

**Jen Beard**

5th Grade Teacher, South Western School District, Pennsylvania

## LESSON 15

### Early instruction reduces Special Education referrals



#### IN ACTION

#### Implement explicit phonics instruction early

Use explicit, sequential, and systematic phonics instruction starting in Kindergarten to prevent reading difficulties and reduce unnecessary Special Education referrals.

## LESSON 16

### System alignment streamlines intervention



#### IN ACTION

#### Align assessment with instruction

Choose screening tools that directly map to specific skill lessons for precise, targeted teaching and learning.

## LESSON 17

### Collaboration fuels transformation



#### IN ACTION

#### Create consistent instructional routines

Develop shared language, consistent routines, and collaborative approaches by training staff members (including administrators!) across all grade levels.

## LESSON 18

### Student confidence grows with progress



#### IN ACTION

#### Build systematic intervention routines

Use teacher-led, personalized instruction that builds both skills and student confidence.

“

There is so much more buy-in with your staff if you have a leader who walks the walk. It's easy to say 'we need you to do this program!' But when they see us (district leaders) doing it with them, they're much more inclined to jump on board.”

**Charley Clark**

Assistant Superintendentm, Fairfax School District

## LESSON 19

### Assessment and instruction work in sync



#### IN ACTION

#### Connect diagnostic assessment and progress monitoring to targeted lessons for precision teaching

Use assessment data to immediately inform specific instructional decisions, interventions, and student groupings.

## LESSON 20

### Confidence replaces confusion



#### IN ACTION

#### Establish predictable classroom routines

Create consistent structures that eliminate confusion and build student ownership in learning.

“Our routine is everything. There’s no guessing about what’s happening, my students just know. They are ready to rock and roll.”

**Kimberly Rosenow**

Reading interventionist, Moss Elementary, Oklahoma



Looking for a deeper dive into the stories that make these practices come alive?



Scan the QR code to download the 20 lesson's eBook today!