

Concept-Oriented Reading Instruction (CORI)

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OVERVIEW

Helping your child to “lifelong learn”
through comprehension and motivation

- **What is CORI? / Why CORI?**
Increase reading engagement
- **How Can CORI Benefit My Child?**
The 3 big answers!
- **How Our Teachers Teach**
Strategies are taught systematically in
the CORI program

What is CORI?

CORI stands for Concept-Oriented Reading Instruction. It is designed to teach students reading comprehension through the combination of science and reading. CORI's primary goal is to increase the reading comprehension of young students by increasing their reading engagement.



CORI Teachers Understand...

The building blocks of reading must be taught clearly. The best practice is to tie the specific teaching of reading strategies to the "Big Ideas."



Why CORI?

Teachers encourage conceptual knowledge as the main goal, not just memorizing:

→ **#1 IMPORTANCE**

Reading about the world around them encourages student's long-term development.

→ **#2 IMPORTANCE**

Students who have a commitment to understand the concepts within an instructional unit are likely to get a deeper understanding of the content.



How Can CORI Benefit My Child?

Researchers compared CORI designed classrooms to traditional classrooms in the same schools and found large benefits in three areas....

#1

Reading Comprehension

CORI students comprehended new books better.

#2

Motivation

CORI students want to read. In fact, they choose to read more books after being in a CORI classroom!

#3

Scientific Knowledge

CORI students learn the concepts they study, which is valuable for their general knowledge and for content learning.

CORI Components



Hands-on activities

Active learning is motivating. CORI teachers help students make a connection to their experience and that bridge becomes very powerful for them.

Information books & variety

CORI teachers use informational curriculum that are interesting.

All students participate with the class in concept learning

All students— regardless of reading level — are learning new information about the same subject (such as weather, woodlands, animal behavior, birds of the world).

Choice of subtopics for investigation

Choice is a key part of the students motivational goal. Choices of subtopics and text increase students' efforts in class. Students choose a topic that enables them to study and read for a longer time. Choice creates a commitment to reading that grows their learning.

Frequent reading

One of the best ways to become a proficient reader is by reading frequently.



How I Teach

Several reading strategies are taught specifically—step by step— within a larger concept or main idea. There are **6 key concepts**...

Using Background Knowledge

Using what you know to understand a new book. I work with students to activate this knowledge. All students can be *taught* to do this.

#1

Questioning

Questions help you learn. I help students to ask questions or write self-initiated questions about the topic of the text before and during reading.

#2

Searching

Students need to search through different portions of books in order to learn what they want to learn. I help students search for information to fulfill their goals as a reader.

#3



The CORI program teaches these six strategies one at a time at the beginning, addressing one a week. In the next portion of the program students combine the strategies and I spend time helping students integrate them.

Summarizing

It's a fundamental strategy. I focus on teaching students how to form a summary of the text.

#4

Organizing Graphically

When developing an understanding of informational text, it is very helpful to draw a picture as you read along in a book. I guide students to bridge the words they read to a picture.

#5

Structured Stories

Forming a concept of how a story looks and works is key to becoming a good reader. I help students make a map of a story to help them understand a story structure.

#6

What Makes CORI Different?

Small-Group Instruction

Focused reading instructions for smaller groups of those students who are learning one or more reading skills.

Emphasis On Oral Reading Fluency and Expressiveness

One tool for this is “reading theater” — where kids learn to be expressive. It is very important for students to learn these skills.

Simplified Strategy Instruction

CORI's goal is to help students build bridges from text to strategy. Creating this bridge helps students understand a teacher's questions and the text.