myON Helps Michigan Educators Address All 10 Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy for K-3

Essential Practice #1: Deliberate, research-informed efforts to foster literacy motivation and engagement within and across lessons

myON offers:

- Reading materials based upon Lexile® levels and an interest inventory, so that students can choose their own reading materials that are interesting to them and at their "just right" reading level.
- High-quality, digital content in a motivating and engaging platform.
- Writing tools including the option for note-taking, journal tools, and a graphic organizer to help readers create a mental picture of the text's information.

Essential Practice #2: Read alouds of age-appropriate books and other materials, print or digital

myON's platform includes:

- Optional reading scaffolds that support and encourage independent reading, including professionally-recorded audio to model fluency, word and text highlighting, a zoom feature and an embedded dictionary.
- An interest inventory to give students a choice for age-appropriate books.

Essential Practice #3: Small group and individual instruction, using a variety of grouping strategies, most often with flexible groups formed and instruction targeted to children's observed and assessed needs in specific aspects of literacy development

myON can be used for:

- Independent and self-directed reading.
- Small group activities for instructional purposes.
- Creating booklists within projects for individual students or groups of students to support intervention and differentiated instruction.

Essential Practice #4: Activities that build phonological awareness

myON includes:

- Professionally-recorded audio to allow students to develop a strong awareness of both phonological and phonemic awareness skills in an authentic environment such as:
  - ° Awareness of sounds in the English Language
  - ° Awareness of rhymes
  - ° Ability to talk about, reflect upon, and manipulate sounds
  - ° Developing an understanding of the relationship between written and spoken language
- A wide variety of authentic texts appropriate for emergent readers to increase early readers' exposure to language and how sounds form words.
- Scaffolds such as text and sentence level highlighting to allow students to track the text being read and provide an accurate model for mapping speech to print.
- A plethora of early literacy titles including nursery rhymes that expose students to concepts under the larger umbrella of phonological awareness such as onsets and rhymes, which in turn help students discern individual sounds within words.

Essential Practice #5: Explicit instruction in letter-sound relationships

myON's extensive collection provides:

- Connected text to match phonics concepts explicitly being taught in isolation.
- Annotation tools such as highlighters to enrich concepts in systematic phonics programs.
- An embedded dictionary so students can hear the correct pronunciation of words and see where the word should be broken apart for decoding.
- Authentic texts to recognize what academic language looks and sounds like while learning phonics principles.

Essential Practice #6: Research- and standards-aligned writing instruction

myON offers:

- Educator tools to support the development of standards-aligned book sets that can be assigned to individual students, groups or whole classes to support the curriculum.
- Literacy tools that allow for note-taking, journaling, and use of a graphic organizer to help readers create a mental picture of the text's information.

Essential Practice #7: Intentional and ambitious efforts to build vocabulary and content knowledge

myON provides:

- Diverse and engaging content that provides auditory models of correct syntax and grammar within the English language.
- Unlimited access to myON content to allow learners to have increased opportunities for vocabulary and word acquisition skills.
- An embedded dictionary tool to provide multiple meanings and synonyms, supporting language learners to develop strong reading habits and use semantics while reading.
- Scaffolds including professionally-recorded audio and highlighting to enable interaction with the text and to support a one-to-one match of the written and spoken word, as well as supporting images that can enhance language acquisition in an academic environment.

Essential Practice #8: Abundant reading material and reading opportunities in the classroom

myON's extensive collection offers:

- A cost-effective personalized literacy environment with unlimited, concurrent access to a complete digital library of thousands of age-appropriate titles.
- Recommended booklists that match students' interests and Lexile® reading levels, to foster engagement and growth.
- Picture books, graphic novels, literary non-fiction, readers and chapter books, reference materials and more, to support reading across the curriculum. The collection includes 70% non-fiction and informational text and 30% fiction.
- A large collection of digital books in Spanish with authentic and culturally relevant connections.

Essential Practice #9: Ongoing observation and assessment of children's language and literacy development that informs their education

myON provides:

- Assessment tools to enable progress monitoring and real-time data to inform instruction—available through user-friendly dashboards for administrators, educators, parents and students.
- Embedded metrics to provide schools with data on individual student reading activity and growth that can be shared with parents and families, as well as aggregate data for community partner reporting and accountability needs.

Essential Practice #10: Collaboration with families in promoting literacy

myON understands families are a big part of the literacy equation and offers:

- Unlimited, concurrent access to thousands of age-appropriate books on any web-enabled device, with downloads for offline reading available via free mobile apps, to provide opportunities to read great content anywhere, anytime for learners and their families: at home, school, a library, community center, in a park or on a bus.
- Flexible scaffolds (including audio, text highlighting, a zoom feature and embedded dictionary) along with a suite of literacy tools, to support family engagement, enabling children and families to read together even if there isn't a proficient adult reader in the household.
- A toolkit to further facilitate family literacy through family-focused Literacy Events. Customizable documents such as invitations, checklists, reminders and news release templates are available electronically to help plan, organize, and implement successful events.

Please note:

The Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy for Grades K-3, which are referenced in this handout, are detailed in a document authored by Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators General Education Leadership Network Early Literacy Task Force (2016). Essential instructional practices in early literacy: K to 3. Lansing, MI: Authors.

See the full document at http://www.gomaisa.org/sites/default/files/K-3%20Literacy%20Essentials%203.2016.pdf#overlay-context=general-education-leadership-network .

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