

The **balanced literacy approach** (BLA) combines various instructional strategies to help young learners develop essential reading and writing skills.

Put the words from the box in the correct blanks below.

Guided Reading	Word Study	Shared Reading	Modeled/Shared Writing
Independent Writing	Read-Aloud	Independent Reading	

BLA main elements include:

1. _____: The teacher reads to the whole class, modeling fluent and expressive reading. This helps students build listening comprehension, vocabulary, and a love for reading.
2. _____: Teachers and students read together from an enlarged text. Students can observe reading strategies while participating in a group setting, enhancing their understanding of print concepts and decoding skills.
3. _____: Small groups of students at similar reading levels work with a teacher who provides targeted instruction. This helps students apply strategies to read new texts independently.
4. _____: Students read self-selected books at their own level, fostering a sense of ownership and practice. This allows for differentiation and personalization of reading experiences.
5. _____: Activities focus on phonics, spelling, and vocabulary. Students learn letter-sound relationships, word patterns, and meanings to strengthen decoding and word recognition.
6. _____: The teacher demonstrates writing strategies, while students collaborate with the teacher to write. This builds understanding of the writing process and text structures.
7. _____: Students write on their own, applying skills they've learned. This develops their ability to express ideas, use correct spelling, and structure their writing independently.

The balanced literacy approach blends explicit instruction with independent practice, aiming to meet individual learner needs and provide a comprehensive literacy experience.

Questions:

1. Look at the examples above. How does this relate to **scaffolding**?
2. Have you used any of these techniques in teaching?

Applying learning theories in the YL classroom.

Information Processing	Behaviorism	Sociolinguistics	Constructivism
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1. _____

- **Example:** A teacher uses a reward system to reinforce reading habits. Every time a child successfully reads a sentence aloud or identifies a letter correctly, they receive a sticker. After collecting a certain number of stickers, they get a small prize.
- **Explanation:** Positive reinforcement encourages children to repeat desired actions, like practicing their phonics or sight words.

2. _____

- **Example:** During a lesson on letters and sounds, the teacher provides children with various hands-on materials like magnetic letters, sand trays for tracing, and picture cards. The students use these tools to explore and experiment with letter formation and sounds.
- **Explanation:** This approach encourages learners to actively build their knowledge by interacting with their environment. Students engage in discovery and create their own understanding through exploration.

3. _____

- **Example:** The teacher encourages children to engage in collaborative storytelling. In small groups, students take turns contributing to a group story, practicing language use, social interaction, and cultural expression.
- **Explanation:** This approach focuses on learning as a social process. Language development occurs through communication and interaction with others in a meaningful context.

4. _____

- **Example:** The teacher introduces a phonics game where children match letters to sounds on a computer or tablet. The program provides immediate feedback and tracks progress, helping students to process and retain letter-sound relationships.
- **Explanation:** This approach views learning as the development of mental processes, such as memory and attention. This approach focuses on how learners encode, store, and retrieve information, aided by technology or structured activities.

Tasks:

1. Underline the key words from each learning theory, for example “reinforce”.
2. Choose 2 of the learning theories. Think of another classroom situation or technique for each that aligns with the learning theory.