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Reading

“Reading is the most important skill for success in school and society. Children who fail to learn to read will surely fail to reach their full potential.”

Hall, S. L., & Moats, L. C. (1999). *Straight talk about reading: how parents can make a difference during the early years*. Lincolnwood, IL: Contemporary Books.

Principles of Effective Reading Instruction

The following principles are the foundation for instruction in *Rusty and Rosy Learn with Me™*.

- Emergent readers need to understand how print works.
- Rapidly recognizing individual letters is a critical determinant of reading proficiency.
- Phonological awareness plays a critical role in learning to read.
- Beginning readers need to understand the relationships between written letters and spoken sounds or the alphabetic principle.
- Beginning readers need practice reading and listening to a variety of texts.
- Beginning readers need to develop automatic word recognition skills so they can pay attention to meaning.
- Readers should practice spelling and writing new words.
- Readers need practice reading orally with expression and with automaticity.
- Readers can develop comprehension strategies that help them better understand what they read.
- Readers should practice writing connected text to express ideas and to learn basic grammar and usage skills that improve their writing.

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Math and Science

“What the future holds in store for individual human beings, the nation, and the world depends largely on the wisdom with which humans use science and technology. And that, in turn, depends on the character, distribution, and effectiveness of the education that people receive.”

Rutherford, F. J., & Ahlgren, A. (1990). *Science for all Americans*. New York: Oxford University Press. Retrieved June 26, 2007, from <http://www.project2061.org/publications/sfaa/online/intro.htm>.

Principles of Effective Early Math Education

The following principles are the foundation for instruction in *Rusty and Rosy Learn with Me™*.

- Consistent, high-quality math education should be provided to all students.
- Math instruction should be based on research, national and state standards, and best teaching practices.
- Math learning needs to build on students’ understandings, abilities, and experiences with the physical world.
- Problem solving, reasoning, flexibly representing concepts, formulating proofs, communicating, and making connections should be encouraged.
- Mathematics processes need to be modeled for, directly taught to, and used by early learners.
- Math learners need to develop solid understanding of concepts before using written symbols.
- Hands-on investigation is an integral part of early math education.
- Students need to develop an understanding of the relationship between math and their everyday lives.
- Familiarity with key vocabulary in context enhances students’ understanding of number, operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and probability.
- Appropriate use of technology and of tools aids students as they learn math concepts and processes.

Principles of Effective Early Science Education

The following principles are the foundation for instruction in *Rusty and Rosy Learn with Me™*.

- Consistent, high-quality science education should be provided to all students.
- Science instruction should be based on research, national and state standards, and best teaching practices.
- Science learning needs to build on students’ existing understandings, abilities, and experiences with the physical world.



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- Observing, asking questions, forming hypotheses, designing experiments, collecting data, analyzing results, communicating findings, and refining explanations and understandings through further research should be encouraged.
- Science inquiry processes need to be modeled for, directly taught to, and used by early science learners.
- Hands-on investigations are an integral part of early science education.
- Students need to develop an understanding of the relationship between science and their everyday lives.
- Familiarity with key vocabulary in context enhances students' understanding of physical science, life science, earth and space science, science and technology, science in personal and social perspectives, and the history and nature of science.
- Appropriate use of technology and of tools aids students as they learn science concepts and processes.

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