Six Pillars of Developmental Reading

Phonemic Awareness

• An understanding that speech and language are made up of a series of sounds
• The ability to hear and differentiate the sounds in words
• Generally learned in the home where adults speak and interact with their children

What are some of the activities that promote phonemic awareness before children begin school?

Print Awareness

• An understanding that print exists and that it is different from pictures
• It is print that carries the message
• In English orthography print moves from left to right, top to bottom
• The concept of word is developed

What are some of the activities that promote print awareness before children begin school and at school?

Print Knowledge

• Knowledge and usage of phonics, other decoding strategies and sight words
• Teaches students about the conventions of print by building upon what they already know about letter/sound relationships

What are some of the activities that promote print knowledge before children begin school and at school?

Fluency

• Fluency: the ability to read smoothly, accurately, and effortlessly with expression
• Automaticity: instantaneous recognition of words, meanings, uses
• Prosody: reading with expression

What are some of the activities that promote fluency at school and at home?

Vocabulary

What are some of the activities that promote vocabulary growth at school and at home?
Comprehension

- Constructing and understanding the meaning of a text
- Relating the meaning of a text with prior knowledge or experience
- Self-monitoring reading and understanding
- Knowing what to do when understanding breaks down—using fix-up strategies

What are some of the activities that promote comprehension at school and at home?