

Outline and Sample Script for Introducing a Decoding-Focused Intervention to Upper Elementary and Secondary Students

This outline and sample script have been designed for teachers of students in upper elementary and secondary grades who have been matched with a decoding-focused intervention.

Teachers can freely modify the script to make the words their own, and to promote the buy-in of their students.

Outline: Key Messages

- ✓ I'm going to talk to you about something that is going to make a difference in your reading.
- ✓ It's important to understand that people with reading challenges are smart people who work hard—they just didn't get taught how to read in the way they needed.
- ✓ This semester, you will learn specific, necessary skills and they will help you in specific ways.
- ✓ It's a defined set of skills—once you have learned them, you have them for life.

Sample Script

Teacher: "I want to talk to you about something that's going to make a big difference in how you read and how you understand what you read. For many students, reading can feel like a challenge, especially when you run into long, complicated words in science, social studies, or even novels.

Here's something really important that I want you to know: When reading is hard for people, it's not because they aren't smart or because they haven't worked hard enough. The truth is, a **lot** of students didn't get the kind of reading instruction that would have worked best for them when they were younger. In many schools, the way reading was taught didn't give kids the tools that make reading easier—like how to break down words, recognize patterns, and connect sounds to letters in a way that sticks.

For some students, this was made even harder by the pandemic. A lot of students missed out on key reading skills during the disruptions of those years, and that's not their fault.

The good news is that we can change that. This semester, we're going to work in a program that will help you understand the way individual words work. You'll learn more about how

words are built, how the different parts of words fit together, and how you can read individual words confidently and automatically. This is about mastering the skills you need to tackle any word, anywhere—whether it's a tricky science term like 'photosynthesis' or a word you see on a college application one day.

In this class, we're going to learn about the smallest parts of words, figure out their patterns, and use strategies that will make reading easier and faster for you. We'll focus on phonics—which is how letters are used to represent the individual sounds in the words we speak. We will also study syllables, roots, prefixes, and suffixes—things that help you break down and figure out even the most complicated words. The best part is, the more you build these skills, the easier reading will feel in all of your classes. Also, this is a defined set of skills to learn—once you have learned them this year, you'll own them and they will serve you for the rest of your life.

I'll be here to guide you, and we'll work together on this. My goal is for you to walk out of here feeling more confident as a reader, knowing that you have unlocked reading in a whole new way."

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