
Comprehensive Literacy addresses all four strands of the Language Arts curriculum: reading, writing, oral language and media literacy.

Comprehensive Literacy includes a balance of instructional approaches and authentic, ongoing assessment. Instruction is planned and delivered to meet the needs of all students. Time is set aside each day for whole group, small group and individual instruction.

Assessment
Teachers assess knowledge, skills, and strategies on an ongoing basis to determine each student’s learning strengths and needs. To assist teachers in assessing literacy development, TCDSB has developed a variety of assessment tools and strategies based on current educational research and the curriculum expectations.

Time is set aside each day for whole group, small group and individual instruction.

Comprehensive Literacy includes the following approaches: read-aloud, interactive reading, shared reading, guided reading and independent reading. Students have daily opportunities to develop and practice comprehension strategies and decoding skills. Successful interactions with a wide variety of texts increase student engagement and motivation to read.

The literacy block includes:
- the reading workshop, and
- the writing workshop.

Reading Workshop
Explicit instruction in reading skills and strategies is provided during the reading workshop. Reading instruction includes the following approaches: read-aloud, interactive reading, shared reading, guided reading and independent reading. Students have daily opportunities to develop and practice comprehension strategies and decoding skills. Successful interactions with a wide variety of texts increase student engagement and motivation to read.

Writing Workshop
Writing instruction includes the following instructional approaches: modelled writing, shared writing, interactive writing, guided writing and independent writing. Daily opportunities are provided for students to learn and apply the writing process. Instruction focuses on both the elements and the forms of writing. Students develop writing skills and strategies in order to communicate clearly for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Oral Communication
Oral communication is fundamental to the reading and writing workshops. Students develop vocabulary, critical listening and speaking skills as they engage in purposeful talk before, during and after reading and writing activities. Through oral language experiences, students learn the meaning of words, and the structure of language. They construct meaning by interacting with others.

Word Study
Students learn spelling/word solving strategies in context through targeted instruction within the reading and writing workshops. Students develop knowledge and skills in phonemic awareness, print awareness and vocabulary in order to read and write. Developmentally appropriate spelling activities and explicit and systematic phonics instruction enable students to develop and apply what they have learned.