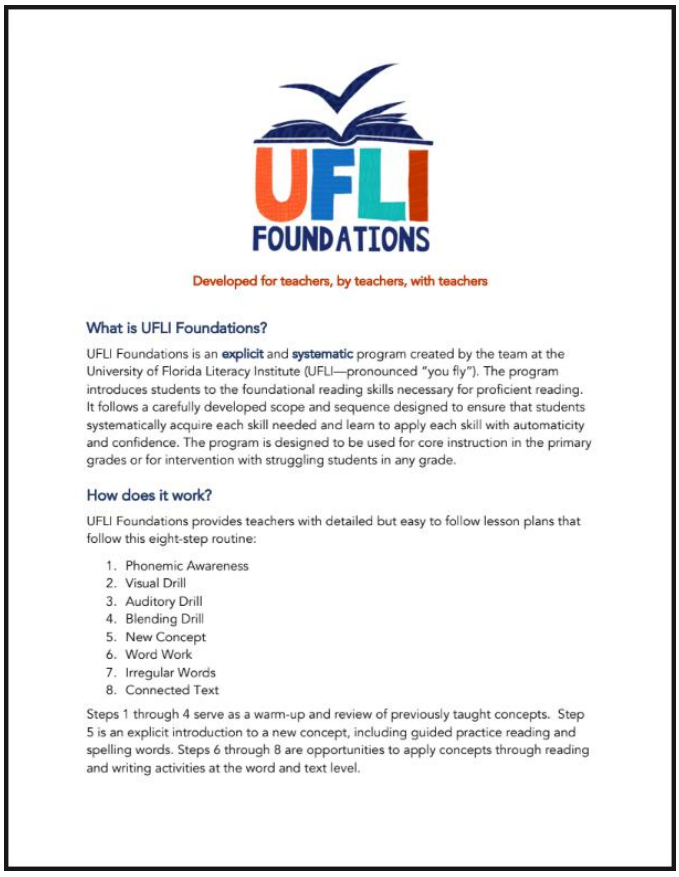
What is UFLI Foundations?

UFLI Foundations is an explicit and systematic program that teaches students the foundational skills necessary for proficient reading. It follows a carefully developed scope and sequence designed to ensure that students systematically acquire each skill needed and learn to apply each skill with automaticity and confidence. The program is designed to be used for core instruction in the primary grades or for intervention with struggling students in any grade.



Developed for teachers, by teachers, with teachers

What is UFLI Foundations?

UFLI Foundations is an **explicit** and **systematic** program created by the team at the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI—pronounced "you fly"). The program introduces students to the foundational reading skills necessary for proficient reading. It follows a carefully developed scope and sequence designed to ensure that students systematically acquire each skill needed and learn to apply each skill with automaticity and confidence. The program is designed to be used for core instruction in the primary grades or for intervention with struggling students in any grade.

How does it work?

UFLI Foundations provides teachers with detailed but easy to follow lesson plans that follow this eight-step routine:

1. Phonemic Awareness
2. Visual Drill
3. Auditory Drill
4. Blending Drill
5. New Concept
6. Word Work
7. Irregular Words
8. Connected Text

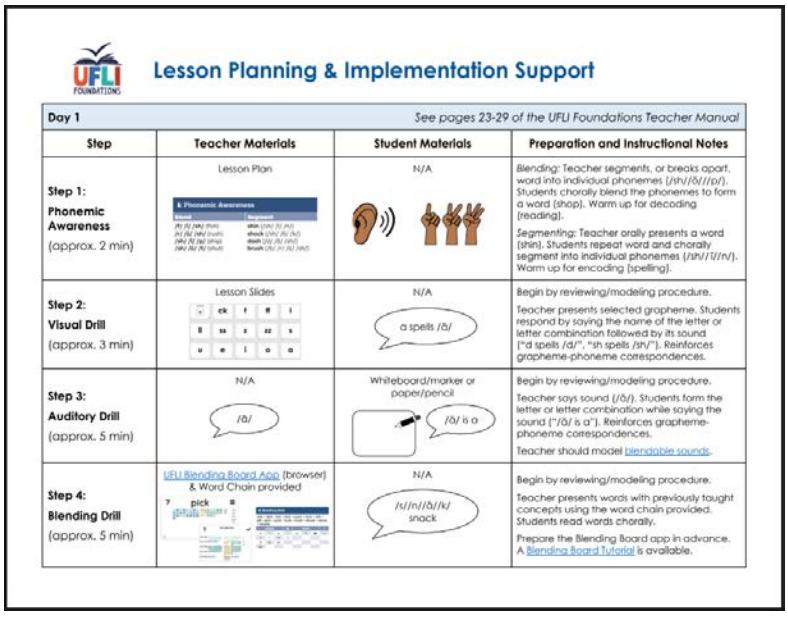
Steps 1 through 4 serve as a warm-up and review of previously taught concepts. Step 5 is an explicit introduction to a new concept, including guided practice reading and spelling words. Steps 6 through 8 are opportunities to apply concepts through reading and writing activities at the word and text level.

UFLI Foundations Overview?

This five-page guide gives educators a clear and easy-to-use overview of the UFLI Foundations Tier 1 Foundational Skills program. It's perfect to have on hand during training sessions and is also a great resource to share with families.

Lesson Planning Resources

It is recommended that teachers print and laminate this document for easy access during lessons. It's especially useful for those new to implementing UFLI Foundations, providing a quick "at-a-glance" reference for what both the teacher and student need at each step of the lesson.



Lesson Planning & Implementation Support

Day 1			See pages 23-29 of the UFLI Foundations Teacher Manual
Step	**Teacher Materials**	**Student Materials**	**Preparation and Instructional Notes**
Step 1: Phonemic Awareness (approx. 2 min)	Lesson Plan	N/A	Blending: Teacher segments, or breaks apart, word into individual phonemes (/sh//ō//p/). Students chorally blend the phonemes to form a word (shop). Warm up for decoding (reading). Segmenting: Teacher orally presents a word (shin). Students repeat word and chorally segment into individual phonemes (/sh//i//n/). Warm up for encoding (spelling).
Step 2: Visual Drill (approx. 3 min)	Lesson Slides	N/A o spells /ō/	Begin by reviewing/modeling procedure. Teacher presents selected grapheme. Students respond by saying the name of the letter or letter combination followed by its sound ("d spells /d/", "sh spells /sh/"). Reinforces grapheme-phoneme correspondences.
Step 3: Auditory Drill (approx. 5 min)	N/A /ō/	Whiteboard/marker or paper/pencil /ō/ is o	Begin by reviewing/modeling procedure. Teacher says sound (/ō/). Students form the letter or letter combination while saying the sound ("/ō/ is o"). Reinforces grapheme-phoneme correspondences. Teacher should model blendable sounds.
Step 4: Blending Drill (approx. 5 min)	UFLI Blending Board App (browser) & Word Chain provided pick	N/A /s//n//ō//k/ snack	Begin by reviewing/modeling procedure. Teacher presents words with previously taught concepts using the word chain provided. Students read words chorally. Prepare the Blending Board app in advance. A Blending Board Tutorial is available.

UFLI and Project Read

"The UFLI Portal on Project Read is a game changer! The most common barrier to implementation fidelity has been progress monitoring and small group support.

The UFLI Portal saves teachers time and delivers precise instructional recommendations from the UFLI Foundations manual based on student needs." - Dr. Holly Lane

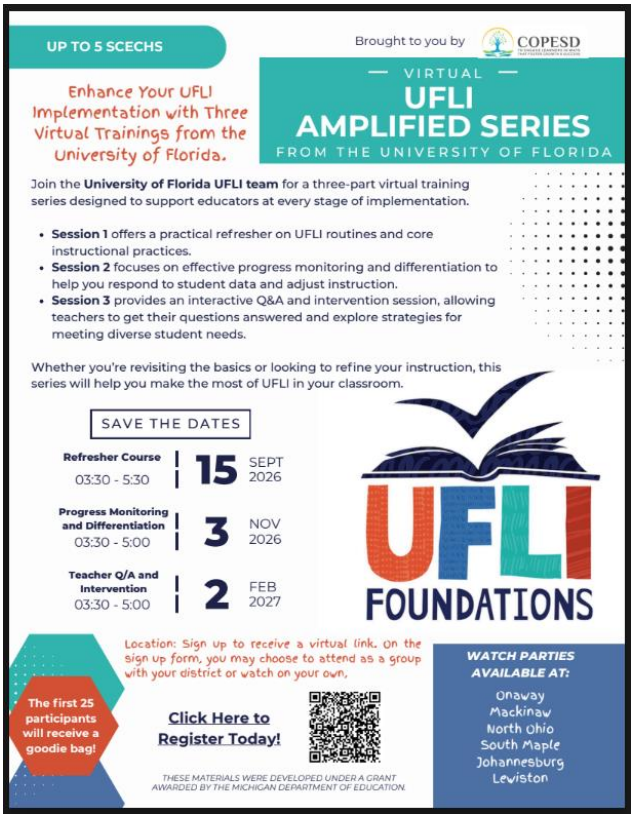
2026-27 Professional Learning

Virtual UFLI Series

Registration is open! Join the **University of Florida UFLI team** for a three-part virtual training series designed to support educators at every stage of implementation. Whether you're revisiting the basics or looking to refine your instruction, this series will help you make the most of UFLI in your classroom.

Session 1: UFLI Refresher / Year 2 Implementation
September 15 | 3:30–5:30 PM EST

Session 2: Progress Monitoring & Differentiation
November 3 | 3:30–5:00 PM EST

Session 3: Teacher Support – Q&A and Intervention
February 2 | 3:30–5:30 PM EST

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