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Literacy Connection: Advance Ability

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Do you ever feel like you need an advanced degree in reading to figure out the best way to teach literacy to your students? These days, there is an overwhelming amount of information out there pulling you in several directions at once. It can be challenging and time consuming to sort through all that information in an attempt to do what is best for each of your students.

[Advance Ability](#), Home of the Reading Treehouse is a website devoted to understanding how children learn to read. The website's author uses the process of building a treehouse to explain how children develop language and literacy skills from the floor of the treehouse (ability to play with speech sounds) to the walls (written words that can be read); all encompassed by the tree top that represents world knowledge. The website is organized around the general process of becoming a fluent reader with general knowledge provided for teachers/parents, resources, and activities for developing readers.

A major focus of the website is assisting parents/teachers in identifying problems in developing readers and finding resources to remedy the problems as quickly and as easily as possible. This makes the website an excellent resource for special education teachers who are likely working with a wide variety of reading challenges. The content on the website is organized around the five key components of literacy acquisition (phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension) as outlined by the National Reading Panel (2000). The content is well grounded in research-based practices. Both parents and professionals will appreciate the simple, concrete descriptions and step-by-step information.