

**95%**  
*of students can learn to read when given the proper instruction.*

Unlike learning to speak, human brains are not wired to read. For effective reading instruction, it is crucial to rely on evidence-based methods and materials informed on how brain pathways can be created for decoding words.

**3-CUEING**

The 3-cueing method is not based on the science of how the brain learns how to read. Students are taught to “read” based on cues instead of sounding out words. When the student encounters a new or unfamiliar word, they are prompted to guess or memorize it.

*A strategy that takes the reader away from the written word and encourages guessing.*



**grass? lawn? garden? field?**

The chick is in the yard.



- Guess the word:**
1. Does it make sense? (meaning)
  2. Look at the picture.
  3. Does it sound right? (structure)
  4. Does it look right? (visual)

**SCIENCE OF READING**

The Science of Reading is evidence-based teaching practices, supported by decades of extensive brain research, which effectively teach children the foundational skills of reading. It focuses on phonics instruction through the practice of decoding.

*A strategy that uses the sounds that letters make to sound out the word.*



**VS.**

The chick is in the yard.



- Read the word:**
1. Sound out the letters and then blend the sounds to read the word.
- /y/ /ar/ /d/ → “yard”.*

## LITERACY REFORM IN WISCONSIN

**Reading is the foundation of all other learning.** According to the most recent state data, **only 39% of third grade students in Wisconsin are reading at or above grade level.** The situation requires urgent action. Thankfully, real progress is possible with the literacy reforms passed in 2023 Wisconsin Act 20.

*We're driven by the belief that literacy should be accessible to all.*

## 3-CUEING PROHIBITION

**Three-cueing methods do not provide a strong literacy foundation, resulting in many children who remain poor readers as teenagers and adults.** Three-cueing has been used by approximately half of Wisconsin elementary schools over the past decade. 2023 Wisconsin Act 20 prohibits 3-cueing, which means Wisconsin schools cannot use any method of teaching that uses meaning, structure and syntax, and visual cues or memory to teach reading skills. The prohibition includes reading materials, reading instruction, reading intervention, and teacher college training programs for grades kindergarten through third.

## THE FUTURE IN THE BADGER STATE

**Forward Literacy is working to ensure the literacy reforms in 2023 Wisconsin Act 20 are enacted** from monitoring the law's implementation in school districts to supporting parents and highlighting success stories.

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