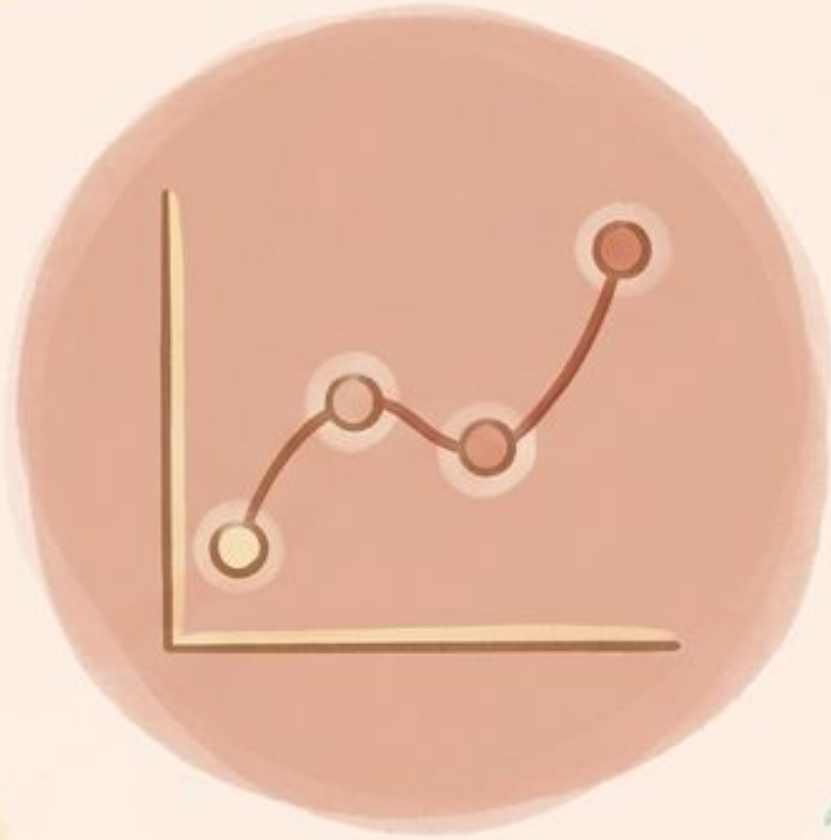


Beyond the Score

Diagnosing the instructional conditions behind end-of-year early literacy data.



An End-of-Year Reflection Guide for Early Childhood Leaders



The Visible Result

Assessment data shows us whether students are progressing by the end of Kindergarten.



The Invisible Driver

Data rarely explains why. To truly understand literacy growth, we must look beyond the score to the instructional conditions that shaped it.



The Score

(What we see in June).
Visible end-of-year
literacy outcomes.

The Story

(The instructional conditions).
Strong outcomes are
supported by:

• Clear
phonics
progression

• Consistent
classroom
routines

• Repeated
opportunities
for independent
decoding

• Strong oral
language
development

• Skills that
transfer beyond
familiar tasks

Supported Performance

Success relies heavily on familiar classroom contexts, heavily practiced routines, and frequent teacher prompting.

The June Transition Zone — Can students maintain their success when the context changes?

Independent Mastery

Students confidently transfer skills to new texts, unfamiliar tasks, and entirely new classroom contexts without heavy scaffolding.

What We Observe

Students perform well in familiar contexts but struggle to transfer skills independently.

Differences in literacy outcomes across classrooms despite using similar resources.

Strong decoding scores paired with weaker oral language or comprehension readiness.

Gaps between assessment performance and actual classroom independence.

The Underlying Pattern

Success is anchored to practiced routines rather than internalized mastery.

Literacy growth lacks a stable instructional model across the building.

Phonics is developing, but foundational language conditions are not keeping pace.

The assessment score may reflect heavy scaffolding rather than true capability.

The infographic features a central orange circle with the title 'Key Indicators of Literacy Growth'. Five surrounding circles in different colors (purple, brown, green, yellow, and light orange) each contain a specific indicator and its description. The background is decorated with watercolor-style elements like leaves and circles.

Key Indicators of Literacy Growth

Skill Transfer

Skills move seamlessly into new texts, tasks, and classroom contexts.

Independent Decoding

Students can decode unfamiliar words without assistance.

Classroom Consistency

Literacy outcomes remain stable and consistent across different classrooms.

Unprompted Action

Students do not rely heavily on teacher prompting or practiced routines.

Oral Language Support

Spoken language actively supports comprehension and expression.

Consistency



Green Flag: Literacy outcomes remain consistent across classrooms and student groups.

Red Flag: Results vary significantly depending on teacher support, classroom context, or familiar routines.



Independence



Green Flag: Students apply literacy skills independently in unfamiliar tasks.

Red Flag: Performance drops noticeably when students move beyond practiced activities.



Alignment



Green Flag: Assessment results align with observed classroom independence.

Red Flag: Strong scores are not reflected in decoding, oral language, or coanguage, or comprehension during regular classroom work.



Guide Priorities

Use these identified patterns to set foundational literacy priorities for the next academic year.

4



1

Review Context

Review assessment results alongside classroom observations and daily student work.



2

Identify Strengths

Identify which instructional practices were most consistently associated with stronger outcomes.



3

These focused reflections provide deeper insight than assessment reports alone.



Note Misalignments

Pinpoint exactly where scores, classroom independence, and oral language readiness do not fully align.

“Are our literacy results showing independent mastery — successful performance within familiar conditions?”

A lens to guide end-of-year data reviews, academic discussions, and instructional planning for the year ahead.

About The Literacy Channel

The educational voice of Chapters & Co., the team behind the structured KG literacy programs sMiles and Basamat for English and Arabic.

A Leadership Connection

Schools may use this framework internally for academic planning, or schedule an online leadership conversation with our team to review what your data reveals, discuss classroom observations, and identify priorities for the next academic year.

If this brief raises a question you're navigating, reply to us—we read every message.

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