**ELAR Foundational Skills**

**Phonemic Awareness:** The ability to recognize and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. This includes identifying rhymes, segmenting words into individual sounds, and blending sounds to form words.

**Phonics:** Understanding the relationship between letters (graphemes) and sounds (phonemes). Phonics instruction helps learners decode words by associating sounds with corresponding letters or letter combinations.

**Vocabulary Development**: Building a strong vocabulary is crucial for understanding written text. This involves learning the meanings of words, including sight words (high-frequency words that may not follow regular phonetic patterns) and content-specific vocabulary.

**Fluency**: The ability to read text accurately, quickly, and with expression. Fluent readers can recognize words automatically, allowing them to focus on comprehension rather than decoding individual words.

**Comprehension**: Understanding and making meaning from written text. This includes identifying main ideas, making inferences, summarizing, and drawing conclusions.

**Sight Word Recognition:** Instantly recognizing high-frequency words by sight, without sounding them out. Sight word recognition improves reading fluency and comprehension.

**Reading Comprehension Strategies**: Employing various strategies to enhance understanding, such as predicting, visualizing, questioning, and summarizing.

**Decoding:** Using phonics knowledge to sound out unfamiliar words. Decoding skills are essential for reading new or unfamiliar text.

**Reading Aloud**: Practicing reading aloud helps develop fluency, expression, and comprehension skills. It also provides opportunities for feedback and correction.

**Contextual Understanding**: Grasping the meaning of words and phrases based on the surrounding context. Context clues help readers infer the meanings of unfamiliar words.