

these models, I feel as if a combination of all needs to exist. I believe that understanding the meaning of each word is important but I do not believe this is necessary for a student to be able to read. However, you don't want to not give this attention because then a student could go through life without expanding their vocabulary. It is important for a student to WANT to understand what words mean.

Top Down Model

I am here Sarah. "The meaning-based, or whole language approach, is a top-down method that emphasizes reading comprehension, or deciphering meaning of words based on context," (Education Week, 2004). The instruction of learning to read starts from comprehension and divides that "whole" into manageable parts. Context is crucial for the construction of meaning and that is possible through the schemas that humans build throughout their lives. Schemas are previous life experiences and/or background knowledge that allow readers to make connections and understand text. According to top-down advocates, reading is a natural process. It is also a transaction between the reader and the text. Words on paper are meaningless alone. It is the reader who brings meaning to the text utilizing his/her schemas. For these advocates, reading goes beyond decoding words and acquiring fluency. They defend the idea that if a child becomes a "word caller" but he/she is unable to comprehend, then he/she cannot read. In this theory, the accuracy in reading fluency and decoding is not a sign or weakness as long as the reader is still able to make a mental picture of what he/she is reading. Whole-language advocates call these errors "miscues" because it is the reader who changes and/or manipulates those inaccuracies on purpose in order to make sense of what is read.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/reading/>

- Teach students to read as a whole versus sounding out each word in a sentence
- Use context clue to decipher unfamiliar words
- Helpful for second language learners
- Focus on understanding main idea
 - Even if a student doesn't understand every word if they grasp the meaning of the text they've learned
- Allow student to choose books they are interested in – motivated to read
- Read aloud to develop skills

<http://everydaylife.globalpost.com/topdown-reading-model-theory-13028.html>