



Science of Reading Alignment

Letters alive®: Zoo Keeper ABC Boot Camp™ + Animal a Week™

Science of Reading Pillar	Zoo Keeper ABC Boot Camp™	Animal a Week™	Detailed Alignment
Phonemic Awareness	Explicit, daily introduction of beginning sounds and rhyming	Continues with syllables, rhymes, and segmenting and blending activities	• Picture-sound matching, syllable counting, rhyming games (e.g., -at, -am, -og). • Circle Chart activities focus on initial sounds of animal names and descriptive words. • Students isolate, blend, and manipulate phonemes using word families and songs.
Phonics	26-day progression, 1 letter + sound per day	Weekly focus on word families, digraphs, blends, and sentence construction	• Weekly CVC word building (e.g., frog = /f/ /r/ /o/ /g/). • Builds upon Boot Camp by introducing rimes (-et, -in, -oke), blends (bl-, gr-), and digraphs (sh-, th-). • Students practice decoding and encoding in real, meaningful contexts.
Fluency	Modeled through daily songs, chants, and sentence practice	Sight word practice and repeated readings of animal-themed stories	• Weekly focus on new sight words. • Daily practice reading short, predictable texts. • Repeated reading of stories builds prosody and confidence.
Vocabulary	Embedded in animal names, habitats, and related content	Expands to science-based vocabulary through nonfiction exploration	• Students learn animal attributes, habitats, actions, and descriptive terms (e.g., “mane,” “swamp,” “herbivore”). • Oral and written expression tied to thematic vocabulary. • Hands-on crafts and Circle Charts help anchor new words.
Comprehension	Retelling, story mapping, and sentence building daily	Weekly thematic stories tied to real animal facts and SEL themes	• Each week includes a story (e.g., *Dana Dolphin’s Deep Dives*) with goals: character, setting, problem, solution. • Students draw, dictate, and write personal or animal-based stories. • Integrated SEL themes (e.g., managing time, showing kindness) support deeper understanding.

Cross-Program Literacy Practices that Reinforce the Science of Reading

Practice	Implementation in Boot Camp & Animal a Week™
Explicit Instruction	Letter sounds, word building, and sight word reading are modeled and practiced every day.
Spiraled & Cumulative Review	Letters and sounds are revisited throughout the year (e.g., Aa in Boot Camp → Aa in “Amos Alligator” week).
Connected Decodable Text	Each animal story matches the phonics focus and reinforces new sounds (e.g., long a, short a = Amos Alligator).
Multisensory Learning	Students sing, build crafts, act out verbs, and interact with 3D AR animals using Letters alive.
Speaking & Listening	Students discuss habitats, retell stories, act out animal actions, and participate in SEL conversations.
Print Concepts	Storybooks and Circle Charts emphasize directionality, parts of a book, sentence structure, and punctuation.
Assessment Opportunities	Weekly 'Zoo Review' activities assess letter knowledge, vocabulary, and comprehension.