

**Webinar 3: Handout 1**  
**Key early grade reading skills**

| Skill                          | Definition  |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Language Skills</b>         | Knowledge of the vocabulary, grammar and discourse patterns (the way language is used) in oral or sign language   |
| <b>Concepts of print</b>       | Knowledge of the orientation of a book, the direction text is read, ability to identify illustrations, cover, title, capital and lower-case letters, punctuation marks and other basic aspects of print   |
| <b>Phonological awareness</b>  | Ability to hear, identify and manipulate sound units of oral language   |
| <b>Alphabetic principle</b>    | The understanding that letters represent the sounds which form words; it is the knowledge of predictable relationships between written letters and spoken sounds and the ability to map sounds to printed text in order to read and write words |
| <b>Spelling</b>                | Ability to accurately use the graphemes of the language to write down words   |
| <b>Vocabulary</b>              | Knowledge of the meanings of words  |
| <b>Reading fluency</b>         | Ability to read connected text smoothly, quickly, and with expression   |
| <b>Listening comprehension</b> | Ability to listen to and understand text read aloud by a parent, teacher or peer  |
| <b>Reading comprehension</b>   | Ability to read and understand connected text (sentences and paragraphs which convey meaning)   |
| <b>Writing</b>                 | Ability to express ideas and knowledge in writing (far beyond handwriting skills)   |