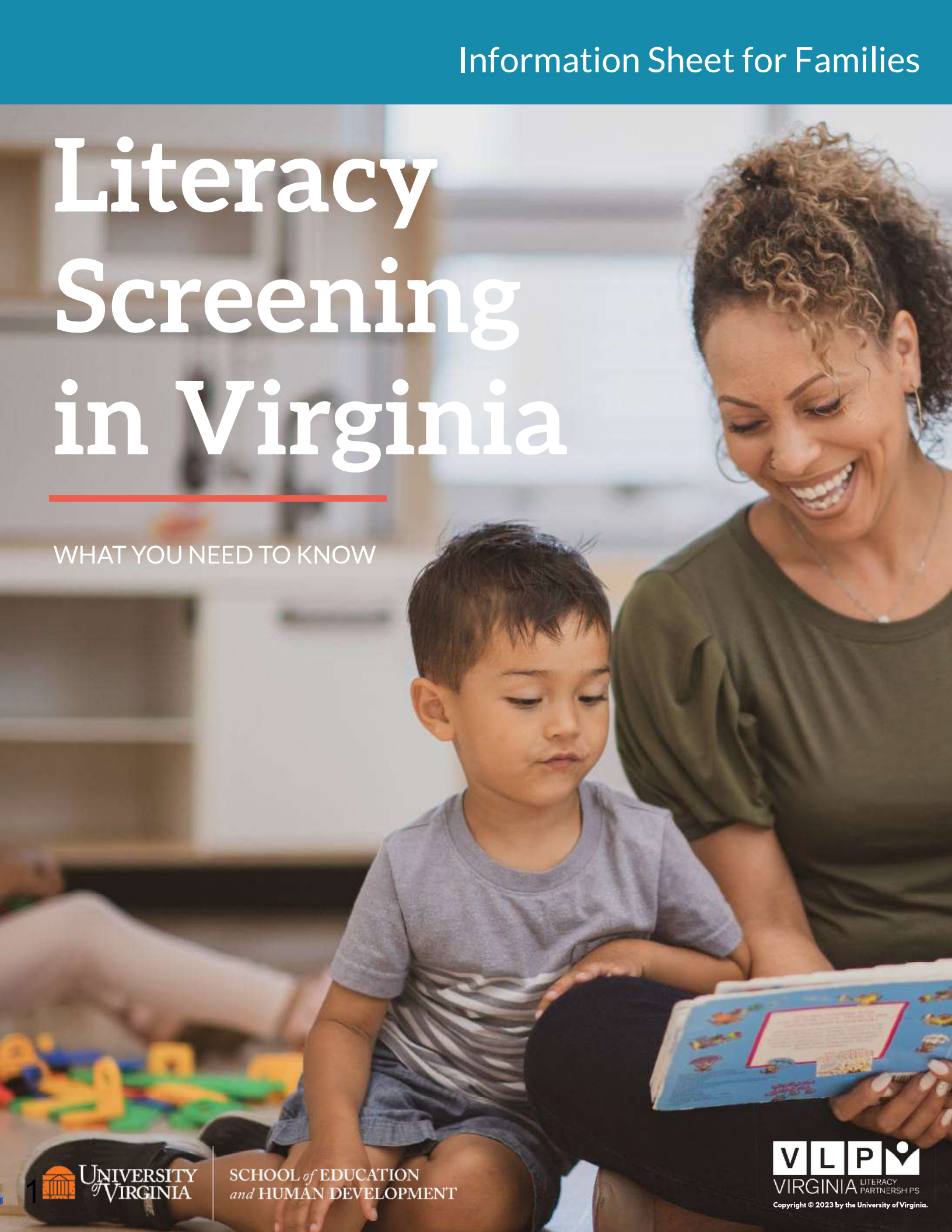


# Literacy Screening in Virginia

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



# What's inside:

What is literacy & language development?

What is a literacy screener?

What is intervention?

What is VALLSS?

What do VALLSS scores tell you?

Support for your child



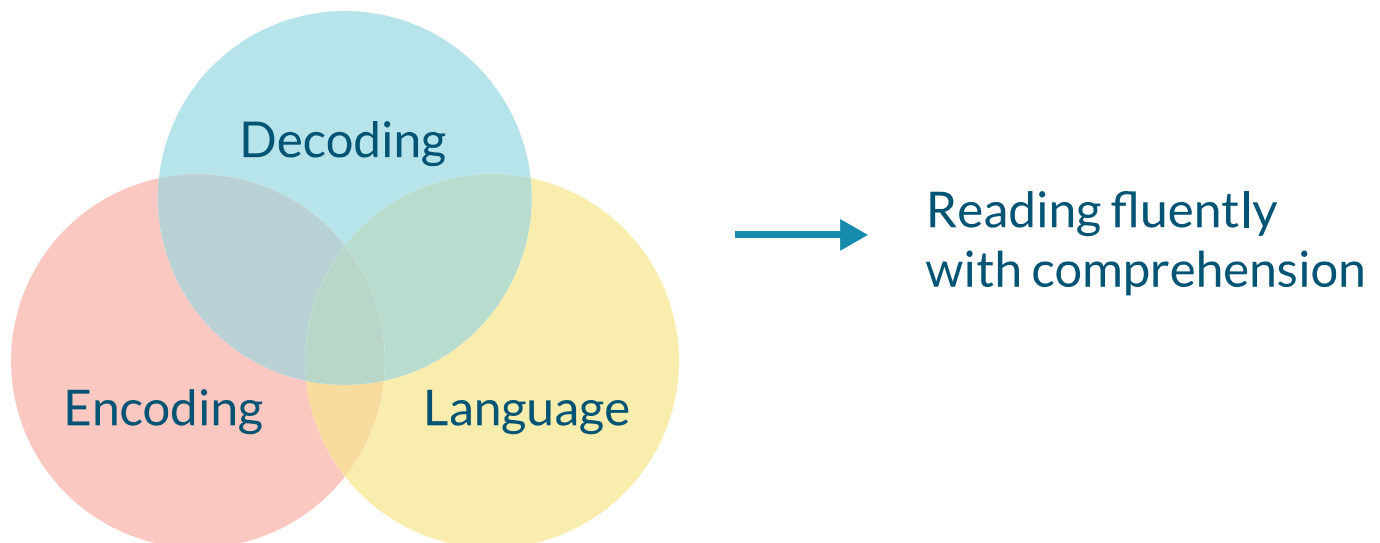
# What is literacy and language development?

Literacy means that someone can read and write. Language development is the ability to understand and use spoken language. The goal of reading is to be able to understand (comprehend) what you read.


***In order to read, students need to be able to:***

1. *decode* – blend sounds together to read words
2. *encode* – spell words
3. *understand and use language*

As students' skills improve in these three areas, they develop fluency (reading words quickly and correctly) and *reading comprehension* (understanding what is read).



# What is a literacy screener?



A *literacy screener* is a test or assessment. It is designed to identify students who may be at risk for developing reading difficulties.

Early screening is critical because risk for reading difficulties can be detected as early as kindergarten. It is important to screen for reading difficulties early in students' school careers, so that classroom instruction can be tailored to student need and they have the best chance to catch up.

# What is intervention?

Intervention is *extra instruction* in specific skill areas that students need.

In Virginia, if students are identified as needing additional support, they receive *intervention* to help them make progress.

Research tells us that early intervention is critical for students with reading difficulties, as students will not simply “catch up” without extra instruction.



What does  
VALLSS do?

# VALLSS

## VIRGINIA LANGUAGE & LITERACY SCREENING SYSTEM

1

Gives a ***snapshot of critical literacy skills*** at a single moment in time

2

***Identifies students at risk*** for developing reading difficulties

3

***Provides instructionally-useful information*** to target instruction

**VALLSS** is the Virginia Department of Education's sponsored literacy screener for Grades K-3.

# VALLSS

## VIRGINIA LANGUAGE & LITERACY SCREENING SYSTEM



Measures components of reading that are **key** for reading comprehension



Aligned with the newest reading science



Piloted across the Commonwealth of Virginia with students from different backgrounds and language statuses



Measures progress over time



Expanded to include three year old PreK students all the way through Grade 3

# What do VALLSS: Grades K-3 scores tell you?

- 1 If your child is at risk for developing reading difficulties

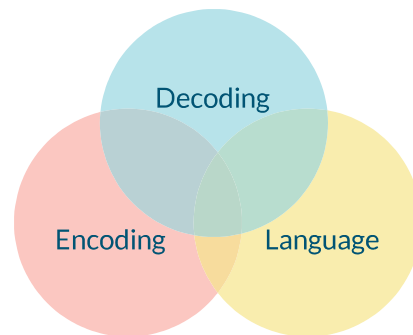
After all of the subtests are completed, the student will receive an indication of an overall band of risk.

These bands are:



- 2 In what components of literacy your child needs further instruction

Teachers use this information to ***plan instruction and intervention***, to ensure students get the support they need to catch up.



Check with your school for a letter that explains your child's VALLSS scores.

# What if my child is in the **high-risk** band?



## Support is on the way!

If your child is in the high-risk band, they are at high risk for developing reading difficulties. This means that they are *significantly* behind in basic literacy development and need targeted, explicit instruction.

Your child's school will prepare a Student Reading Plan that's tailored to help your child make progress. Your child is eligible for an **additional 2.5 hours of literacy instruction per week** through the Early Intervention Reading Initiative (EIRI).

This 2.5 hours per week of additional literacy instruction may include time with a *person* or a *program*, or a *combination* of the two. Check with your child's school about EIRI intervention provided for your child.

# What if my child is in the **moderate-risk** band?



## Targeted, explicit instruction is needed!

If your child is in the moderate-risk band, your child is at moderate risk for developing reading difficulties. Your child needs to receive targeted, explicit instruction in areas of need based on the VALLSS Instructional Indicators.

Even though your child is not in the high-risk band, supplemental instruction is highly recommended to move them to the low-risk band and get them caught up in key skill areas.

# What if my child is in the **low-risk** band?



## Systematic and explicit classroom instruction

If your child is in the low-risk band, they are at low risk for developing reading difficulties. Your child needs to continue to receive systematic and explicit classroom instruction.

Continue to monitor your child's VALLSS scores throughout the year.

# Ways to support your child at home

Visit [literacy.virginia.edu](https://literacy.virginia.edu), select *Resources for Families* from the *Families* drop-down menu.

## Resources for Families

HOW CAN MY CHILD LISTEN TO BOOKS AT HOME?

HOW CAN MY CHILD PLAY COMPUTER GAMES TO HELP IMPROVE LITERACY SKILLS?

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD PLAY WITH SOUNDS?

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD LEARN THEIR LETTER NAMES AND SOUNDS?

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD READ AND SPELL WORDS?

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD LEARN NEW VOCABULARY?

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD WITH READING COMPREHENSION?

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD'S LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT?

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD'S WRITING?

HOW CAN MY CHILD READ ONLINE BOOKS AT HOME?

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD READ WITH AN APPROPRIATE PACE AND EXPRESSION?

GENERAL INFORMATION