

**Best Practice Site**  
**Teaching Students with Disabilities to Read and Write**

<b>Region</b>	Northwest
<b>Schools</b>	Caldwell County
<b>Coordinator and Central Office</b>	<p>Kaeti Groome, EC Director Caldwell County Schools Central Office 1914 Hickory Blvd. SW Lenoir, NC 28645 Phone: 828.728.8407 Fax: 828.728.0012 Email: <a href="mailto:kgroome@caa.k12.nc.us">kgroome@caa.k12.nc.us</a></p> <p>Lesa Widener, Site/Center Coordinator Address: 1914 Hickory Blvd. SW Phone: 828-728-8407 Fax: 828-728-0012 Email: <a href="mailto:lwidener@caa.k12.nc.us">lwidener@caa.k12.nc.us</a></p>
<b>Instructional Location(s)</b>	<p>Hudson Elementary School, 200 Roy E. Coffey Dr. Hudson, NC 28638 – 828-726-5282 Baton Elementary School, 1400 Baton School Rd., Granite Falls, NC 28630 – 828-728-9531 Valmead Elementary School, 111 Elizabeth Dr. NW, Lenoir, NC 28645 – 828-7549612 Whitnel Elementary School, 116 Hibriten Dr. SW, Lenoir, NC 28645 – 828-728-2204 Kings Creek Elementary School, 3680 Wilkesboro Blvd., Lenoir, NC 28645 – 828-754-9477 Granite Falls Elementary School – 60 N. Highland Ave., Granite Falls, NC 28630 – 828-396-2222 Granite Falls Middle School, 90 N. Main St., Granite Falls, NC 28630 – 828-396-2341 Hudson Middle School, 291 Pine Mountain Rd., Hudson, NC 28638 – 828-728-4281 Gamewell Middle School, 3210 Gamewell School Rd, Lenoir,</p>

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NC 28645 – 828-754-6204  
Gamewell Elementary School, 2904 Morganton Blvd, Lenoir, NC  
28645 – 828-758-1193

#### **Purpose and Goals**

The purpose of NC SIP II in Caldwell County is to provide highly qualified Exceptional Children's Teachers who have had specialized foundational reading/writing training along with program specific training to better meet the needs of our students with disabilities. Our goal is for all students with disabilities to close the reading/writing achievement gap and be successful in all academic areas which will assist students in successful careers.

#### **Description Of Students**

Approximately 196 students are included in receiving the model instruction. Students' grade levels range from Kindergarten to grade 8 with a variety of classifications. The types of disabilities include: autistic, developmentally delayed, BED, EMD, LD, Orthopedically Impaired, and Other Health Impaired. The classes that have been selected to participate in the model instruction are the classes where the instructor has successfully completed Reading Foundations Training and has also successfully completed the appropriate program training for their grade level students.

#### **Description of Instructional Model**

Most of the Caldwell County's EC teachers are trained in either second or third edition Language! core language arts curriculum and uses the program with fidelity for 45 – 90 minutes daily. Some of the EC teachers who work with younger children are trained in Letterland International and are using that program. Soliday System is another program that teachers can use to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Four of our schools are using DIBELS to provide an early screening instrument with progress monitoring to determine early intervention.

#### **Instructional Methods**

EC teachers are incorporating "Best Practice" methods of instruction into their reading program for students. These methods have been gained from the Reading Foundations Course each has completed. Other methods include the highly multi-

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sensory approaches promoted in each of the programs, Language!, Letterland, and Sonday Systems, currently being used in instruction.

#### **Instructional Materials**

Instructional materials include the Harcourt Reading Series for the elementary core materials and McDougal Littell Literature Series for the middle grades core reading materials. In addition, teachers use either Language!, Edition II or Edition III, program materials, Sonday System I and II instructor kits, and Letterland kits and materials. Other teacher made materials which assist in instructional practices gained from Reading Foundations are incorporated as well.

Michelle Hunt, HES

Pam Holt, Whitnel

Leslie Thacker, Whitnel

Heather Martin, Gamewell Middle

Melissa Wilcox, Valmead Basic

**Designated Teachers** Marilyn Cowan, KC

Rosa Absher, Baton

Rebekah Pennell, GFES

Junie Troutman, GFMS

Carol Gravely, HMS

Julianne Spradlin, GES

SaraBeth Metzger, GES

North Carolina State Improvement Project (NC SIP II)  
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<http://www.ncsip.org>

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