The Cortland Enlarged City School District remains committed to the success of every learner. In our Kindergarten, first, and second grades, we are implementing a new program for English Language Arts. The name of the program is Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA). CKLA is a comprehensive reading program that is aligned to New York State Learning Standards and is based on research about learning to read, write, speak, and listen.

The CKLA program is broken into two parts: Skills and Listening & Learning. In the Skills strand, students learn how to read and write. In the Listening & Learning strand, students will gain the knowledge, language, and vocabulary that are essential for strong comprehension. These two parts, in addition to guided reading time, will provide the foundation for your child’s literacy.

Our teachers have participated in the initial training for the program and will continue to be involved in training and collaborative planning throughout the year. It’s an exciting opportunity to improve and modernize our ELA program in these very important primary grades.

If you would like further information about the Core Knowledge Language Arts program, check out the parent information section on the Core Knowledge Foundation website, [www.coreknowledge.org/parents](http://www.coreknowledge.org/parents).