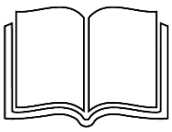
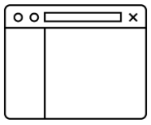
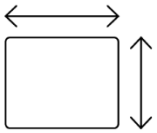
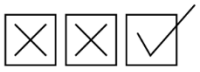
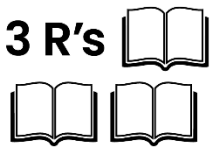
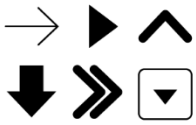
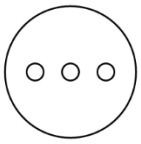
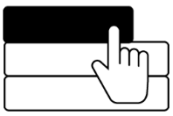
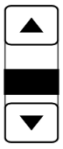
Cues & Clues

	Read it Like a Book	Our eye is naturally drawn to the centre, radiating outward from that central point. Software is designed to be used sequentially and read from left to right. Training the eye to move away from the centre to the top left of the window and identify a visual anchor point is part of the process. Introducing the "Read it Like a Book" concept, provides method, structure and control.
	How many panes or sections?	Panes and window sections are the primary navigational component of software on any device and online. Training the eye to pull back from all the detail and focus on the broader structures is a strategy that reduces overwhelm and allows the user to identify the primary visual cues for navigation.
	Edges are important, do the circuit	The tendency to focus on a central point does something to how we see. It switches off our peripheral vision. Often, key elements, menus and other navigational elements are on the edges of the screen. Looking at the edges and the "big picture" of the screen helps turn on peripheral vision by relaxing and controlling the visual focus.
	Process of elimination, what is it NOT?	When presented with making a choice or decision about a particular task, it is often easier to eliminate the obvious rather than trying to determine what the correct choice would be. This can help narrow down the choices, often making a decision easier.
	3 R's – Read, Read, Read!	When we're focused on getting a task done, it can be hard to slow down… take a breath… and really read what's on the screen. Taking the time to read pop-up messages and descriptions that appear can make a big difference. When we stop and read, we often become more confident and, in the end, complete tasks more quickly.

	3 P's – Patience, Persistence, Perseverance!	These qualities can be hard to hold onto when technology isn't working the way we want, when we want! Reminding ourselves our computer might be "going to space and back" to complete a task may help us be patient. There are often many ways to solve a problem, keep trying! When we keep trying different navigational strategies, we can often figure things out.
	Arrows Mean More – Explore!	Within the window itself, there are cues and clues indicating navigational options and hidden layers. Another useful phrase is, "Arrows mean more, explore". Identifying arrows as a navigational aid is key to reading a window.
	Dot, dot, dot – watcha got?	When there's too much information to fit on the screen, you'll often see a vertical or horizontal row of dots (like ⋮ or ...). Clicking on them usually reveals more options or information.
	Hover to Uncover	Sometimes, not everything we need to know is visible on the screen. When you move your mouse over part of the screen, a word or an icon, extra information may be uncovered, like a description, definition, or an option for another action.
	Rollin', rollin', rollin'…get the info scrollin'!	Digital screens come in all sizes, from tiny phone screens to large TVs. But no matter the size, sometimes not all the information will fit on the screen. Look for a scroll bar on the side or bottom of the screen, this means there's more information available when you scroll.

**Adapted from:* Literacy for Life Foundation. *Tech Talk Student Manual. [unpublished]* www.litforlife.com