

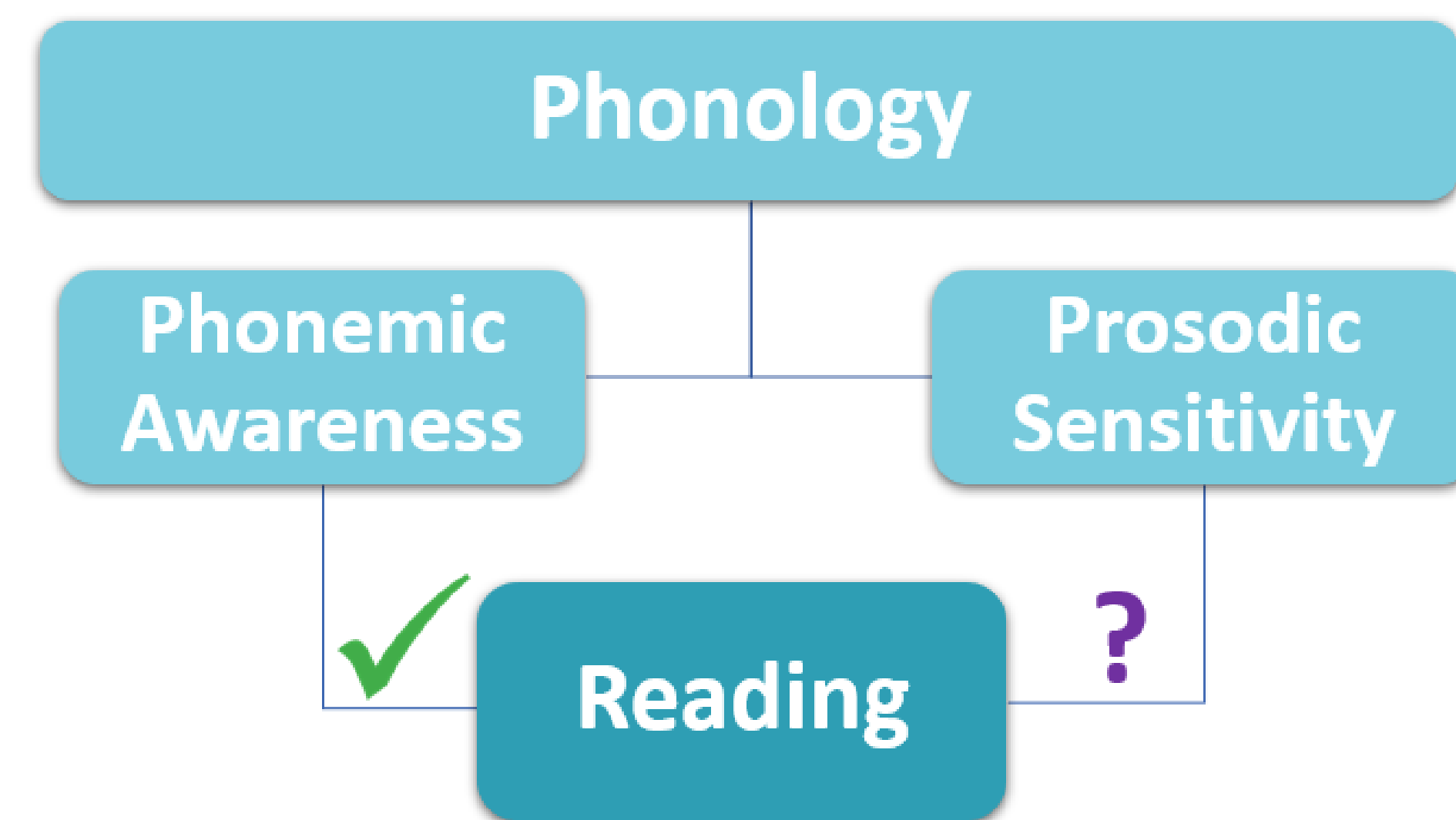
The Rhythm of Reading: Components of Prosodic Sensitivity and Reading in Grade 1

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Background

Prosodic sensitivity: awareness of prosody, or the overarching sound patterns in language such as stress, intonation, and timing.

Different components of prosodic sensitivity may be related to reading outcomes differently.



Methods



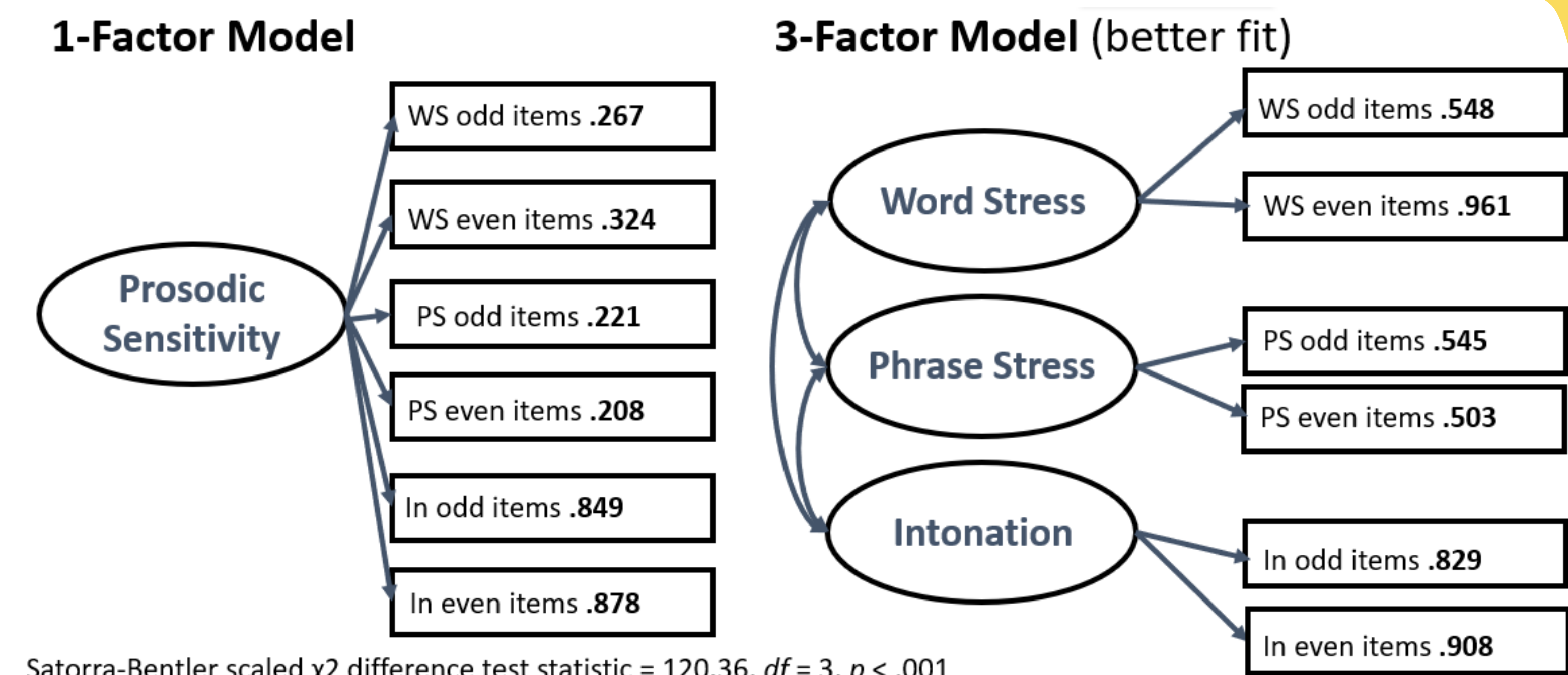
336 Grade 1 students
English-speaking
18 schools around Halifax, NS

Component	Task	Example
Word Stress	Find objects in a house. Objects names spoken with reversed stress patterns	Point to <i>curTAIN</i>
Phrase Stress	Match an English story or character name to one of two stress patterns	Which matches HUMpty DUMpty? <i>DEEdee DEEdee</i> or <i>deeDEE deeDEE</i>
Intonation	Decide whether a sentence is a question or a statement based on the change in pitch	Is this asking or telling? <i>The farmer has five chickens.</i>

Research Question 1

Is prosodic sensitivity one skill, or separate component skills in Grade 1?

Answer: Separate component skills

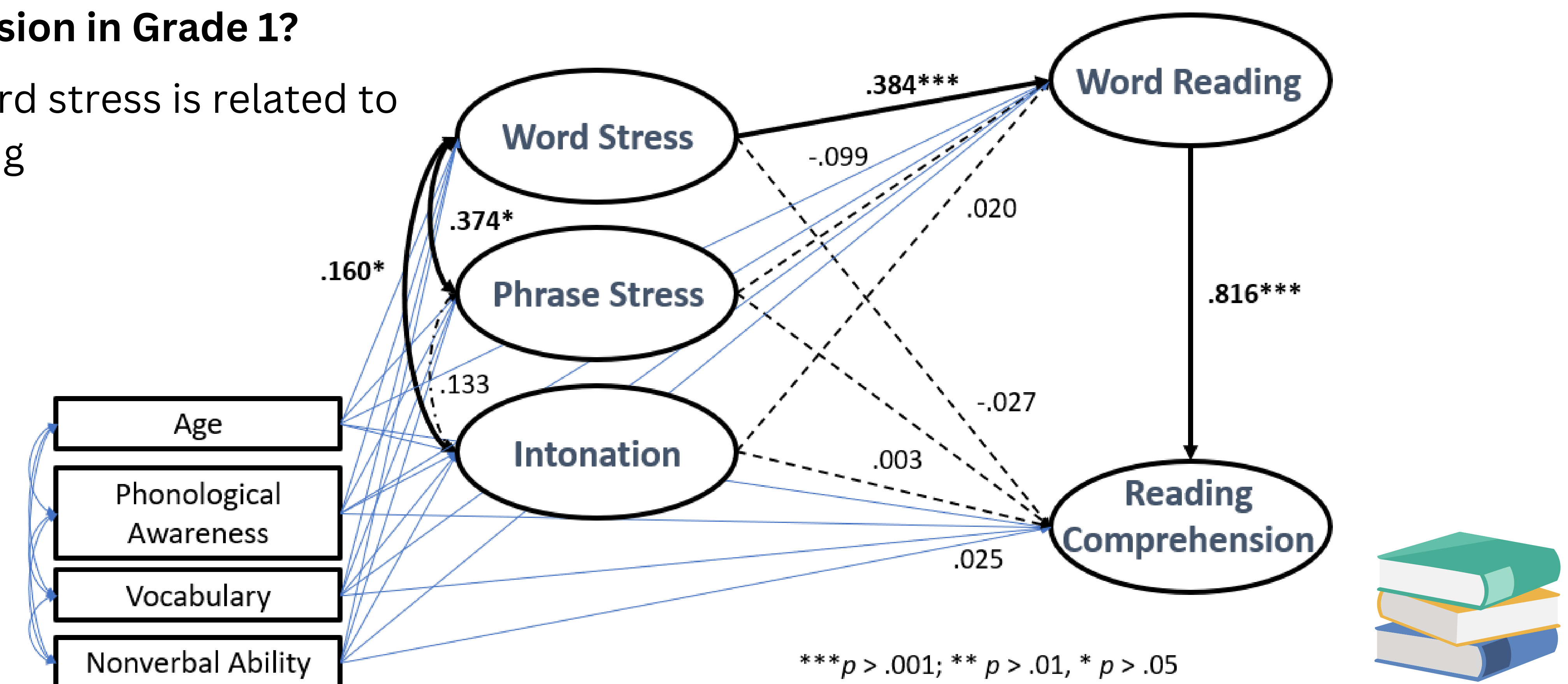


Satorra-Bentler scaled χ^2 difference test statistic = 120.36, $df = 3$, $p < .001$

Research Question 2

Are components of prosodic sensitivity related to word reading and/or reading comprehension in Grade 1?

Answer: Word stress is related to word reading



*** $p > .001$; ** $p > .01$; * $p > .05$

Key Takeaways

1. Prosodic sensitivity is not one general skill, and we should pay careful attention to which component is being measured.
2. It's important to include prosodic sensitivity in research and theories of reading, especially the word stress component.

Thank You



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And all of the students and schools who took part!