

Evidence of Effectiveness: English Language Learners

Headsprout Early Reading is a research-based, supplemental early reading program that provides core-reading outcomes. Headsprout provides instruction in Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Reading Comprehension, and teaches segmenting, blending, and decoding in context. Headsprout's rigorous development and user testing process ensures reading success across a wide variety of learners.

Key Program Outcomes:

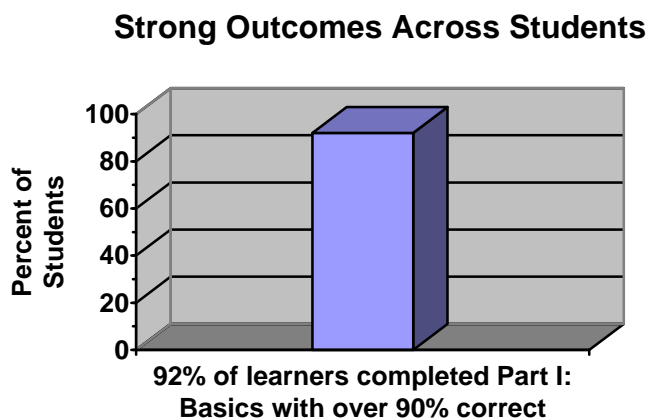
- ✓ Reading/decoding up to the mid 2nd Grade level
- ✓ Fluent knowledge of over 90 phonetic elements and over 100 sight words
- ✓ Potential reading vocabulary of over 5,000 words
- ✓ Progression from single word comprehension to building meaning and inferential comprehension
- ✓ Mastery of the skills and strategies necessary to succeed on standardized tests

English Language Learners (ELL)

Students with limited English proficiency or who are learning English as a second language, require extra support as they shift to English. The following strategies are recommended to aid in the transition:

- **Daily individualized instruction with effective instructional practices.** Provide research-based instruction daily, and tailor that instruction to each student's unique needs.
- **Continual assessment.** Measure progress towards valid instructional objectives frequently, reinforce success, and change instruction that is not working.
- **Home School Connection.** Involve parents whenever and however possible. Encourage and provide avenues for parents to be active participants in their child's learning.

For learners identified as ELL who have completed Part I: Headsprout Reading Basics: Over 92% of the learners scored above 90% correct in the program. In fact, no English Language Learner has completed the program with less than 80% correct.



**From a Texas school using
Headsprout with 170, mainly
ELL K and 1st Graders:**

"The program works great. It offers the students new ways of learning to read. I see that they are excited to go work on the stories. They don't see that learning is a chore which is great... they enjoy it. I see this in all the children.... I do spend a lot of time in the labs watching them work and believe me I've never seen the kids so excited to have fun and learn at the same time."

- **Headsprout builds skills by providing regular contact with clearly spoken oral English and provides multiple opportunities to speak English aloud.**
Headsprout Early Reading starts at the non-reader level and begins systematically teaching fundamental reading skills from there. Knowledge of letter names or sounds is not assumed, and our “Mousing Around” pre-program ensures learners have the basic computer and instruction-comprehension skills needed to begin. Each lesson builds upon previous material learned, and English oral language models are presented through instruction, vocabulary exercises, storyline, and comprehension activities--all presented within engaging animations. Throughout the program, learners have the opportunity to make oral responses and check the accuracy of their own English responses.
- **Headsprout provides concentrated, effective, individualized instruction, which allows students to learn at their own level and pace.**
Headsprout’s carefully designed instructional sequence allows learners to start with things they know or can easily do and builds instruction from there. High amounts of one-on-one learning are needed to address the language/learning deficits of most English language learners. Headsprout Early Reading provides over 180 individualized interactions within each 20-minute episode. Headsprout’s individualized adaptive instruction is like having an instructional aide for each student. With Headsprout, teachers can provide individualized instruction in critical learning areas (phonics, segmenting, blending, fluency and reading comprehension) to all their students, every school day.
- **Headsprout teaches until objectives are met, individualizing instruction yet making sure each student meets key program objectives.**
Headsprout’s instruction is tailored to meet the needs of each learner—and ensures that those needs are met before the lesson comes to an end. In Headsprout, students practice and learn until they’ve mastered the skill. The program ensures that a learner does not exit an instructional segment without achieving that specific learning goal. Headsprout manages this by its moment-to-moment adaptation: Although the core instruction is the same for all learners, some learners may require more instruction, practice, or even a specialized set of instructions based on their needs, and these subroutines are available to provide extra skill building and reinforcement whenever needed. Headsprout is effective because it provides low English students with the additional practice and review needed to achieve the same educational goals as their peers.
- **Headsprout helps teachers remain in constant contact with student data.**
Headsprout provides ongoing individual and group performance data that teachers can use to inform their instructional decisions. While the program is continually assessing during teaching, the performance reports allow teachers to monitor student progress and better understand each student’s unique strengths and needs.
- **Headsprout facilitates the involvement of parents, encouraging them to be active participants in their child’s education.**
Headsprout can provide students with their own library of books to take home, read, and share. As students progress through the program, printable black and white and even full color stories are available, which they can keep for their very own. To encourage success, Headsprout provides guidance on how to use shared reading materials effectively. In addition, even Headsprout’s online lessons can be used at both school and home, and progress reports can be automatically emailed to parents for all lessons done at school.