

Alignment with Critical Early Reading Skills

Phonemic Awareness Instruction

- Progresses from sounds in isolation to finding sounds in words to blending sounds into words
- Uses letter-sound combinations to make words
- Provides guided (fluency) practice for finding letter-sound combinations in words in all positions in a word
- Builds learner sound-articulation skills, such that sounds said match sounds heard

Phonics Instruction

- Extends phonemic awareness and letter-sound instruction with an additional 75 phonetic elements
- Extends blending tasks such that regular words are first decoded and then practiced
- Systematically introduces more complex phonetic elements and uses special teaching sequences for easily confused elements
- Builds fluency in rapid automatic naming of sounds and words
- Extends blending tasks to multisyllabic words
- Provides application of phonetic skills to increasingly more demanding story reading
- Provides story context decoding of novel regular words
- Provides sufficient skill acquisition for learners to be able to read quality Second Grade level or above books

Letter-sound Instruction

- Begins with phonetic elements (letter combinations representing sounds) that are said the same way in over 85% of the words in which they appear
- Provides practice distinguishing easily confused phonetic elements
- Offers repeated, cumulative practice of learned letter-sound combinations
- Extends learner sound-articulation skills such that the printed phonetic unit occasions saying corresponding sound

Decoding Instruction

- Systematically teaches learners how to blend sounds into words
- Uses only sounds previously learned
- Begins with highly regular words and progresses to words that can be discovered from taught sounds.
- Provides repeated, cumulative practice of decoding skills first in isolation, then in a sentence & story reading context
- Systematically increases complexity of words decoded

Vocabulary Instruction

- Begins with “listener” vocabulary, ensuring meaning, before transferring to print
- Uses all decoded words and irregular words in an age-appropriate context
- Uses character names to introduce the concept that words have meaning (even if one does not initially know what that meaning is)
- Offers word-meaning probes and exercises embedded in all sentence-reading exercises
- Provides exercises for all irregular and new vocabulary words prior to appearing in a story
- Includes comprehension instruction using context to derive word meaning



“My students couldn’t wait to get on the computer to complete the lessons! Headsprout made a big difference for my emergent readers and strengthened their phonics and blending skills. Every child in my Kindergarten class was positively impacted. Thank you!”

Dotty Ewbank-Anderson
Kindergarten Teacher
John Hay Elementary
Seattle, WA

Headsprout
EARLY READING

Alignment with Critical Early Reading Skills

Fluency & Connected Text Instruction

- Provides the first story read within the first 100 minutes of instruction
- Introduces punctuation mechanics through discreet, yet connected, exercises and extends to more complex cases
- Organizes learners' goals around "learning for the next story"
- Introduces passages of increasing complexity leading to chapter book reading
- Introduces various forms of text, including various forms of text such as narrative, expository, and metered & rhymed
- Teaches high-frequency irregular words (sight words)
- Ensures that words in stories are limited to familiar phonetic elements and known sight words
- Systematically builds reading fluency to over 90 words per minute through carefully sequenced, timed fluency exercises
- Provides 80 stories, including narrative text, expository text, and poetry

Comprehension Instruction

- Uses sentence-to-picture matching to teach initial sentence meaning through narrator questions
- Expands sentence-picture matching to stories read
- Uses carefully designed embedded questions in "Read with Me" stories
- Combines listening comprehension with sentence reading related to main idea, prediction, and inference
- Cumulatively builds a repertoire of multiple comprehension strategies
- Allows learners to construct meaning by manipulating words to build sentences that produce a "picture" (often animated) depicting the meaning of the sentence
- Systematically builds comprehension exercises from the sentence level to the passage and story level

Learn More!

- View Headsprout samples of the critical components of early reading instruction at <http://www.headsprout.com/productsampler>
- Read the independent program review conducted by the nationally recognized Florida Center for Reading Research at http://www.headsprout.com/school/fcrr_excerpts.cfm
- Learn more detail about our research and development process at <http://www.headsprout.com/school/research.cfm>

Headsprout®

Researched. Tested. Guaranteed.™

www.headsprout.com

800.401.5062

