

Easy Step to Reading Independence (ESTRI)

Students grades 1-9 heterogeneously grouped and functionally illiterate adults



- *Reading program that enables reading-disabled students to begin reading at age- and grade-appropriate levels through a highly coordinated interaction of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills*

The Program

The ESTRI program enables reading-disabled students to begin reading at age- and grade-appropriate levels through a highly coordinated interaction of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

By pinpointing the exact needs, deficiencies, or areas of weakness — as well as developing a simplified process for decoding unknown works — ESTRI enables students to read and write with meaning and comprehension using grade- and age-appropriate materials. Students can learn to read and write at the same time they are mastering curriculum and academic course materials. The program is then incorporated into activities throughout the school day. Parents assist their children to find materials on topics of interest discussed during the school day and help them study the illustrations and charts even before the students can read the words in the reading selections. Older students use the tutor tapes to strengthen self-paced instruction.

The program has also been successful with high school special education, bilingual, and ESL students.

Professional Development

It is recommended that an administrator/program supervisor be assigned to the program if more than one building in the district is adopting the program. This may be a central office staff person, a principal, or a grade teacher. Training is conducted at the adopter site by an administrator and reading teacher proficient in the ESTRI methodology. Staff from the replicator district are expected to attend a 1- to 2-day workshop to enable the reading and classroom teachers time to work together to develop ease in administering the program. It is recommended that administrators attend part of the first training session.

Costs & Funding Options

Training fees are \$300 per day per trainer, plus travel and lodging expenses. To ensure quality implementation, it is recommended that adopters plan at least one follow-up site visit from the ESTRI staff. Possible funding sources for replication include ESEA Title I and Title VI. The ESTRI program uses commercially prepared materials that include a student workbook and accompanying teacher manual (\$11.95/each), a vocabulary enrichment book and accompanying teacher manual (\$11.95/each), alphabet wall charts (\$5.50/set), and a class set of student tutor tapes (primary level grades 1-2-3, \$119.50; secondary level grades 4-adult, \$123).

Needs assessment placement tests (includes 25 test booklets, teacher manual, and key) are available for \$21.95.

Learning Standards

English Language Arts: 1) read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding.
Career Development/ Occupational Studies: 1) be knowledgeable about the world of work, explore career options, and relate personal skills, aptitudes, and abilities to future career decisions.

Results



- *Statistically and educationally significant pre- and posttest raw score gains on reading achievement tests.*
- *Sustained effects of reading achievement for 4 years after students exited the program.*

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