

WordStart – Early Reading System for Classroom and Home

Pre-K through 1st grade schools and parents



Boosts literacy development.

- *Rich, useful teacher materials.*
- *Uses nursery rhymes and children's songs.*
- *Easy, on-going assessment component with portfolios.*
- *Parent component (training/materials in English/Spanish)*
- *Interim assessments*
- *Access to WordStart's on-line database and reports generator*

Results



- *Pre-posttesting showed that after participating in the program for 26 weeks, kindergarteners significantly outperformed their counterparts on measures of reading, phonological awareness, and spelling.*
- *Strong positive response from teachers, parents, and administrators.*

The Program

WordStart is a music-based system that starts children reading independently. Proven to work and easy to teach and learn, WordStart provides an integrated package of Supplementary classroom instruction, Assessment, Targeted Assistance, Parent Programs, Staff Development, and research-supported program. As a validated program, it meets State and Federal requirements as an "evidence-based" instructional system.

Adding WordStart to the daily literacy block (skills section) eliminates most structural reading problems. The standards-based pre- and post-test assessments measure proficiency and compare student performance with NYSED benchmarks. Performance reports pinpoint deficiencies in preparation and are used to create prescriptions for targeted assistance. Special targeted assistance materials, available on CD-ROM's, are used in learning centers and in after-school program settings. These combined elements form a safety net that keeps all but the most exceptional children from falling behind. Implemented consistently, the WordStart system leads to proven positive results (see www.wordstart.com).

WordStart's approach to early literacy instruction includes the following:

- instructional strategies for the classroom,
- parental involvement,
- essential reading skills assessments,
- language immersion for LEP students and families, and
- staff development.

Professional Development

Foundation Staff provide turnkey training and workshop for teachers, parent trainers, turnkey assessment trainers, and workshop leaders. Also available are video and CD-ROM-based training packages. Training covers WordStart's use of music in instruction, new instructional technologies that simplify learning to read, all related materials, packages for classroom and home, assessment procedures, and special provisions for ESL and special education.

Costs & Funding Options

Pre-kindergarten materials – \$725 per class. Kindergarten materials – first year - \$2,000 per class, following years \$1,000 per class. First Grade materials – first year - \$1,800 per class, following years \$1,000 per class. Parent materials (usable for Pre-K, K, and 1st grade) \$750 for 25 parent boxes plus shipping. Training costs range from \$400 to \$800 per diem. Funding sources include most NCLB parts including Titles I, II (Part D), III, IV, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start and numerous competitive grants.

Learning Standards

The program prepares students to succeed in meeting all English Language Arts learning standards.

Contact

Peter Phillips or
Gloria Richards, Ed.D.
Co-Directors
Beginning Readers
Foundation
177 Hillcrest Road
Mt. Vernon, NY 10552
914-663-4060
Fax: 914-667-4686
E-mail: dr glo@optonline.net
Website:
www.wordstart.com