

Headsprout Early Reading

EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS: ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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

Key Program Outcomes:

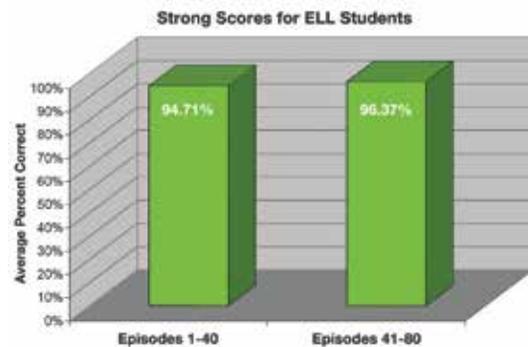
- Reading/decoding up to the mid-second-grade level
- Fluent knowledge of over 90 phonetic elements and over 100 sight words
- Potential reading vocabulary of over 5,000 words
- Progression from single-word comprehension to building meaning and inferential comprehension

Each and every student identified as ELL has completed Headsprout Early Reading with over 90% correct in the program, while progressing to the outcomes described above. The chart opposite indicates the average percent correct for ELL students who have completed episodes 1-40, which focus on the early building blocks of reading, and episodes 41-80, which extend a learner’s reading skills and strategies.

English Language Learners (ELL)

Students who have limited English proficiency, or who are learning English as a second language, require extra support as they shift to English. The following strategies, all provided within Headsprout Early Reading, are recommended to aid in the transition:

- Schedule daily individualized instruction with effective instructional practices.
- Provide research-based instruction daily, and tailor that instruction to each student’s unique needs.
- Measure progress towards valid instructional objectives frequently, reinforce success, and change instruction that is not working.
- Encourage parents to be active participants in their child’s learning by involving them whenever and however possible.



In 2014, Learning A-Z merged Headsprout’s two elementary reading products — Headsprout Early Reading and Headsprout Reading Comprehension — into one adaptive, effective, and fun K-5 online reading program. From introducing early readers to key reading fundamentals to growing reading comprehension skills for more established readers, Headsprout is the perfect resource to help children become capable and confident readers.

Headsprout Early Reading builds skills by providing regular contact with clearly spoken oral English, and 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, story line, 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 Early Reading provides concentrated, effective, individualized instruction, which allows students to learn at their own level and pace. Headsprout Early Reading’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 Early Reading’s individualized adaptive instruction is like having an instructional aide for each student. With Headsprout Early Reading, teachers can provide individualized instruction in critical learning areas (phonics, segmenting, blending, fluency, and reading comprehension) to all their students, every school day.

Headsprout Early Reading teaches until objectives are met, individualizing instruction yet making sure each student meets key program objectives. Headsprout Early Reading’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 Early Reading,

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 Early Reading reading 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 Early Reading 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 Early Reading helps teachers remain in constant contact with student data. Headsprout Early Reading 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 Early Reading facilitates the involvement of parents, encouraging them to be active participants in their child’s education. Headsprout Early Reading 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 Early Reading provides guidance on how to use shared reading materials effectively. In addition, even Headsprout Early Reading’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.

“Headsprout Early Reading has been an excellent literacy solution for our students, while also addressing the needs of our ELL, intervention, and special needs students. Our test scores have increased dramatically, and our teachers and students love it.”

Roberto Flores
Principal, PS 106, Brooklyn, NY