Empower™ Reading: High School

Program Description

This program consists of two parts, Decoding and Spelling, and Comprehension and Fluency. Together, referred to as Empower™ Reading: High School, this program provides comprehensive and focused programming for high school students who have specific difficulties in decoding and spelling, word identification and reading comprehension. The goal of this module is to combine direct instruction and dialogue-based strategy training, present material in a sequential and structured manner and teach all necessary prerequisite skills to mastery for accessing meaning from narrative and expository text.

Included in this module are all of the instructional, metacognitive, and contextual features identified to be important from previous efficacy studies. The metacognitive instruction is scaffolded and teaches explicit self-monitoring and evaluative skills, as well as text knowledge and reading comprehension strategy training. The decoding and spelling portion teaches students five specific word identification strategies, along with a metacognitive organizational plan that supports successful and flexible strategy application and also addresses difficulties in word and text reading and spelling.

In the comprehension and fluency portion, students are taught to understand how authors structure narrative and expository texts and learn how to use them to increase their understanding of text. They learn to recognize specific text features and signalling devices. Lessons include work on specific text features, sources of confusion, elements of a plot, informational text structures, text mapping, and text coherence. These skills are taught and practiced as they are necessary for successful application of the five comprehension strategies. Students are taught how to use the five strategies to access meaning from narrative and expository text using metacognitive strategy instruction. High school curricular materials and texts appropriate for adolescents are used.

The kit for this Empower™ Reading program includes all of the materials necessary to implement the program:

Instructional Materials

- **Instructional Manual Binders**. These manuals provide the teacher with the scripts and dialogue needed for each lesson of the program. Included are program goals, a scope and sequence, introductory and prototype lessons, consolidation activities and much more.

- **Presentation Manual**. This book is used to introduce the new sounds and skills for each Sounding Out lesson. It provides opportunities for guided practice of the other four strategies taught in the Decoding and Spelling component of the program and is a book that can be easily held (or placed) in full view of a small group of students.

Student Materials

- **Student Workbook**. The Student Workbooks include activities that allow students to practice and consolidate the five decoding and spelling strategies as well as the five comprehension strategies on a daily basis. Also included in the workbooks are carefully written stories to practice applying the skills and strategies taught in the program.

Support Materials

- **Reading Strategies Board**. This is a magnetic board that lists the five decoding strategies—Sounding Out, Rhyming, Peeling Off, Vowel Alert and SPY—as well as the dialogue used when applying each strategy.

- **Rhyming Keyword Dry Erase Board.** This allows the teacher to easily accumulate the 120 keywords and provides the students quick access to the keywords as they are learning them. The double-sided board lists all 120 keywords on one side, while the other side has blank spaces into which the teacher can print the keywords as they are newly presented.

- **Peeling Off Tree**. The magnetic Peeling Off Tree Poster helps students understand that prefixes and suffixes are similar to the leaves of a tree as they can be peeled off or separated from a root. The affixes on the leaves are magnetic and are placed onto the tree as they are introduced in the program lessons.

- **Game Plan Wheel**. The Game Plan Wheel is a metacognitive organizational tool that helps students to manage the strategies. It prompts students to choose, use, check, and score as they are applying their Empower™ strategies. It guides students through strategy application whether they are reading or spelling words in isolation or in connected texts.

- **Plot Graph and Text Structure Boards**. Included are: 1)a dry erase board that supports students in their understanding of fiction texts (plot graph) and their structure; and 2) two additional double-sided dry erase boards to support students in their understanding of five common text structures used in expository texts.

- **Program Posters**. These posters support each of the two parts of this program. The decoding and spelling portion have posters specific to each of the strategies and support a multi-strategic approach to word identification. The comprehension and fluency portion include posters that support consolidation of the strategy dialogue and application of the strategies to fiction and expository texts. All of the posters provide students with quick access to the materials to facilitate successful decoding of text, and reading for meaning, information, and pleasure.