Empower Reading: Grades 2-5, Comprehension & Vocabulary

Program Description

This program is intended for students in grades 2 to 5 who have difficulty acquiring reading comprehension skills. The goal of the Empower Reading: Grades 2-5, Comprehension & Vocabulary module is to have students become independent, active, fluent, and self-regulated readers who are able to understand a variety of text materials.

This program teaches students specific skills for acquiring vocabulary, while concurrently introducing five reading comprehension strategies over the course of 70 lessons. During the vocabulary portion of the lessons, students learn how to construct multiple meanings and uses for unfamiliar words and how those words relate to personal experiences.

The text comprehension portion of this module focuses on teaching students' important pre-skills (e.g., text signals or features and text structures) that support comprehension. Our five text comprehension strategies teach students to:

- Actively think about what they are going to read and make connections with what they already know;
- Stop and clarify when comprehension has broken down;
- Monitor and evaluate their understanding;
- Accurately summarize what they read.

The students gain experience in applying the skills and strategies learned in the program through daily reading of fiction and non-fiction texts.

The Empower Reading: Grades 2-5, Comprehension & Vocabulary Kit includes all the materials necessary to implement this module:

Instructional Materials

- **Teacher Instruction Manual Binder**. This manual provides the teacher with the scripts and dialogue needed for each lesson. Included are goals, a scope and sequence, introductory and prototype lessons, consolidation activities and much more. A USB key is provided, which includes full colour copies of various instructional support materials.

Student Materials

- **Student Workbook**. The Student Workbook contains a variety of daily activities that support the acquisition and consolidation of all program content, including all the new vocabulary and the five comprehension strategies.

- **Student Reader**. The Student Reader offers a selection of engaging short stories for the students to practice application of their skills and strategies. The stories include illustrations and have been carefully written to include ample opportunities for further vocabulary development and scaffolded use of the comprehension strategies.

Support Materials

- **Reading Strategies Board**. The strategies board lists the five comprehension strategies and the associated dialogue for each: Predicting, Activating Prior Knowledge, Clarifying, Evaluating through Questioning, and Summarizing.

- **Word Web Dry Erase Board**. This double-sided support material is used by the teacher and students as, together, they construct the meanings for unfamiliar vocabulary words.

- **Plot Graph and Text Structure Boards**. There are two double-sided dry erase boards that support students in their understanding of fiction texts and their structure (i.e., plot graph) as well as three common text structures used in non-fiction texts.

- **Game Plan Wheel**. The Game Plan Wheel is a metacognitive organizational tool that helps students apply their strategies at the appropriate time(s), while reading either fiction or non-fiction text.

- **Program Posters**. There are four program posters that support the use of the strategies and skills taught in the program by providing students with quick access to the materials they need.