

Empower™ Reading: Grades 2-5, Decoding & Spelling

Program Description

Empower Reading: Grades 2-5, Decoding & Spelling is intended for students who are in grades 2 to 5 and struggling with acquiring age-appropriate word identification, decoding and spelling skills. The goal of this module is to enable students to become independent and flexible multi-strategic decoders and spellers, develop the skills needed for academic success, and to read independently for meaning, information, or pleasure.

This module teaches five metacognitive decoding and spelling strategies and how to apply them to words they cannot read or spell. Over the course of 110 lessons the strategies are taught in sequence and are practiced cumulatively on words presented individually and in connected text to ensure mastery. Accuracy and fluency are both emphasized. The rapid recognition of letter-sound patterns, affixes, and individual words are incorporated into the lessons because of their importance in facilitating the development of reading fluency at the text level.

Once students learn the first three strategies of the program, they learn a metacognitive organizational structure that helps them to orchestrate successful selection, application, monitoring, and evaluation of the Empower™ strategies. Embedded in the dialogue that is used to teach and practice the strategies are statements that retrain students' attributions about success and failure. As students learn the five strategies, they also acquire a new approach to tackling unfamiliar material and more positive beliefs in their own abilities. Retraining maladaptive attributions and beliefs about learning and building constructive motivational profiles is inherent to every lesson as is the specific instructional content.

The Empower Reading: Grades 2-5, Decoding & Spelling Kit includes all of the materials necessary to implement this program:

Instructional Materials

- **Teacher Guide.** The Teacher's Guide is an informational resource book that includes background information on Empower™ Reading, an overview of the program and its components, assessment tools, references, and a glossary.
- **Teacher Instructional Manual Binders.** This supplies 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.
- **Teacher Presentation Manual.** These are used to introduce the new sounds and skills learned as part of the Sounding Out Strategy and to practice this strategy in each lesson; in later lessons these books also provide opportunities to practice all five of the strategies. The books can be easily held (or placed) in full view of a small group of students.

Student Materials

- **Student Workbooks.** The Student Workbooks include activities for each lesson that allow students to apply and consolidate all newly-learned and previously-acquired skills and strategies. There are activities for each of the five strategies.



- **Student Reader.** The Student Reader offers a selection of engaging short stories or poems with whimsical illustrations. The stories have been carefully written with controlled vocabulary to support student success and develop student confidence in reading skills. Most lessons conclude with story reading to allow students the opportunity to practice and consolidate their skills and strategies in story format.

Support Materials

- **Reading Strategies Board.** The strategies board is magnetic and lists the five decoding strategies—Sounding Out, Rhyming, Peeling Off, Vowel Alert and SPY—as well as the dialogue to be used when applying each strategy.
- **Rhyming Door Book and Rhyming Keys.** The 120 keywords, taught as part of the Rhyming Strategy, are printed on a set of plastic keys, with one keyword printed on each key. The teacher, together with the students, use each key (keyword) to “open” the Rhyming Door and “unlock” (read) words on a list inside the door having the same spelling pattern as the keyword.
- **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. This 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 board helps students understand that prefixes and suffixes are similar to the leaves on 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.
- **Vowel Alert Stop Sign.** The die cut Vowel Alert Stop Sign with its red, yellow and green lights cue the students to use the steps of the Vowel Alert Strategy when confronted with a difficult vowel or vowel combination in a word. The Vowel Alert Stoplight has inserts for each of the single vowels and vowel combinations that are introduced in the lessons. These inserts slide back and forth prompting students to be flexible and to try the variable sounds for these tricky letter and letter combinations.
- **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.
- **Program Posters.** A variety of program posters are included in the instructional kit. The posters provide students with quick access to the materials they might need when applying the Empower™ strategies.