

Empower™ Reading: Grades 6-8 Decoding & Spelling

Program Description

Empower™ Reading: Grade 6-8, Decoding and Spelling is intended for students in grades 6 to 8 who struggle with acquiring age-appropriate word identification, decoding, and spelling skills. This program teaches struggling readers to apply five decoding strategies to words they cannot read or spell. The goal is not only for the students to acquire a new approach to tackling unfamiliar material and more positive beliefs in their own abilities, but also strives to increase reading skill and to free the reader from decoding obstacles so he or she can read for meaning, information, and pleasure. Retraining maladaptive attributions and beliefs about learning and building constructive motivational profiles is inherent to every lesson as is the specific instructional content.

This program teaches the same five metacognitive decoding and spelling strategies that are taught in Empower™ Reading: Grade 2-5, Decoding and Spelling. However, the rate of strategy introduction is faster in this level, with all instructional content being taught in 90 lessons (rather than the 110 lessons of the Grade 2-5 level). The five Empower™ strategies are taught in sequence and are practiced cumulatively over the course of the program to ensure mastery. Accuracy and fluency indices of mastery are a particular emphasis in this level of the program, especially in the final half of the program. The rapid recognition of all levels of text, including letter-sound patterns, affixes, individual words, sentences, and stories, are incorporated into the lessons because of their importance to facilitating the development of reading fluency.

Partway through the program, students 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.

The kit for this Empower™ Reading program includes all of the materials necessary to implement the 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 Binders.** These binders supply 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.** This is used to introduce the new sounds and skills learned as part of the Sounding Out Strategy and to practice this strategy in each lesson, which also provides opportunities for guided practice of the other four strategies. The book can be easily held (or placed) in full view of a small group of students.

Student Materials



- **Student Workbooks.** The Student Workbooks include daily activities that allow students to apply and consolidate their skills and strategies. There are activities specific to each of the five strategies as well as those that necessitate a multi-strategic approach.
- **Student Reader.** The Student Reader offers a selection of short stories (both fiction and non-fiction) for the students to practice applying their skills and strategies. The stories have been carefully written with controlled vocabulary.

Support Materials

- **Reading Strategies Board.** A magnetic board that lists the five decoding strategies, as well as the dialogue to be used when applying each strategy.
- **Rhyming Door Book and Rhyming Keys.** Each of the 120 keywords, taught as part of the Rhyming Strategy, are printed on a set of plastic keys. The Rhyming Door contains lists of words corresponding to the first 40 keywords. The Rhyming Door and the Keys are used to explicitly illustrate this word identification-by-analogy strategy that helps the students “unlock” or read new words.
- **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.
- **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.