

Award Reading

Program Description

Award Reading is a comprehensive, researched based K-3 program which integrates animated, interactive technology with precisely-leveled, entertaining print materials. Each book is animated with activities after every story. Technology can be used on a daily basis and is an integral part of instruction. The program contains powerful assessments and hundreds of engaging and thought provoking print and electronic texts in different genres. It guides children along a leveled continuum of reading, ensuring that they develop the necessary grade-level phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and technology skills necessary for today's classrooms. The program has over 800 animated, interactive skill activities, and over 300 animated print books. There are 188 engaging stories (narrative, informational, and phonics focused) in print and audio CDs, 14 Big Books, Alphabet cards, content word cards, Literacy Task Cards with guided reading support, extensive Teacher's Guides, and lots more.

Program Implementation

Thirty New York City public schools participated in a pilot of the Award Reading program for kindergartners and first graders during 2007-08. Pilot schools provided the program 30-45 minutes, 3-5 times a week as part of programs for English Language Learners (ELLs), including push-in, pull-out, and self-contained English as a Second Language and/or bilingual classes. Some schools used Award Reading as an intervention program for ELLs on Saturdays or during extended days. Research on the effectiveness of Award Reading in pilot schools is being conducted by Dr. Cathy Block of Texas Christian University.

Preliminary qualitative data show that schools that effectively implemented the program made a strong commitment to provide administrative support and common planning time to encourage grade level articulation among ESL and classroom teachers. Also, administrators and teachers carefully examined what the program could offer and how its components, such as leveled narrative and informational texts in book and audio CD formats, center activities, and assessment tools, could be integrated into the core curriculum. In addition, some pilot program schools have expanded or plan to expand the program to monolingual English classes.

Professional Development

Award Reading provides informational sessions for administrators and teachers throughout the year. Sessions usually include a kickoff in September and a follow-up session in November to ensure smooth program implementation. The company also sends a consultant to assist with the following: modeling lessons, grade-level planning, program management strategies, program components and Web site help, and technical support.

Infrastructure and Cost

To launch Award Reading, your school must have access to 2-3 computers in the classroom. There are free teacher resources and videos on www.awardinteractive.com. Also, to be effective, students should use the program 30-45 minutes, 3-5 times a week. Contact an Award Reading sales representative for computer specifications and specific cost information for your school. This program is also available on FAMIS (# AWA030000) for grades 2 and 3. If your school's ELLs might benefit from this program, contact the Office of ELLs (oell@schools.nyc.gov) to learn about other schools that use Award Reading.

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