



### Early Literacy Development

The role of early literacy development as the key factor for student achievement in elementary school and beyond has been proven. The single most important precursor to success in school, the community, and later in students' working lives is to learn how to read and comprehend a variety of texts. Students who experience success early in the literacy acquisition process are more likely to make steady progress toward becoming fluent readers who understand what they read. For primary school educators and administrators, teaching this core skill is a central responsibility with the desired outcome that students achieve success and make continual progress in their literacy development. In order for this to happen, educators need effective research-based programs that help students progress through the hundreds of skills needed to become fluent readers.

### The Key Elements of Reading Eggs

*Reading Eggs* incorporates a wide variety of effective, research-based, learning activities within a highly motivational framework that help keep students on task for longer periods of time. Through an interactive Web-based program, the design of *Reading Eggs* uses the following instructional elements that have been shown to be highly effective components of reading programs as evidenced in the research literature:

- Early and continued focus on phonemic awareness and phonics – the alphabetic principle
- Building automaticity (instant recall) of a core list of high-frequency sight words
- Repetition of activities and rereading of texts to build fluency
- Wide range of motivational elements
- Variety of instructional formats
- Parental involvement
- Vocabulary activities that build understanding
- Comprehension strategies that ensure reading for meaning is central

Reading and understanding real books is the goal of every *Reading Eggs* lesson.

### Reading Eggs is built on Solid Research

The *Reading Eggs Scientific Research Base* includes an in-depth review of the research literature that supports the wide variety of elements that make up the *Reading Eggs* program. It shows how *Reading Eggs* incorporates this research into all parts of the program from the instructional framework, lesson structure, and types of activities to the motivational elements and reward structure. As described in the full report, research demonstrates that:

- Phonemic awareness skills provide children with the necessary listening skills to become aware that speech is made up of sounds and these sounds make words, syllables, and phonemes. Playing with sounds, listening for phonemes, and breaking words into parts are all useful precursor skills for learning to read.
- Ongoing systematic training in phonics skills is an essential part of successful early reading programs.
- Instant recall of a growing number of sight words helps build fluency and enables students to read for meaning.
- Students need to learn a variety of concepts about print to understand how books and print work.
- Building vocabulary is an essential part of all reading programs and is particularly important for students from a non-English-speaking background.
- The texts that students read should closely match their reading ability so that reading is a successful activity where students have enough working memory at their disposal to make sense of what they read.
- Comprehending text and reading for meaning are the core goals of reading. Decoding is not an end in itself; it must be coupled with understanding.
- Enjoyment of and engagement with instructional activities promotes student achievement and motivation, which then increases time on task. Time on task is a key factor in improving reading success.
- Parental involvement improves student learning outcomes and achievement. Online programs that provide continual feedback to parents about their child's progress make it easy for parents to be involved.

The *Reading Eggs* program combines all of these elements into an engaging, child-friendly world in which children enjoy interacting. The fully integrated playful elements suit the learning style of young children who learn best through play. The program, with a focus on student interaction and a lesson structure that uses a wide variety of short, motivating activities where the student continually earns rewards, encourages even the most reluctant readers to actively participate.