



LXDRESEARCH
AT CHARLES RIVER MEDIA

Just Right Reader

Research Foundation & Logic Model



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RESEARCH-BASED DESIGN

LXD Research Recognition for Just Right Reader



Just Right Reader

This product has been rigorously evaluated and is hereby acknowledged for meeting the educational impact criteria of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), warranting a **Level 4** for "**Demonstrating a Rationale.**" This recognition is based on its proven effectiveness in enhancing grade-level learning outcomes.

REVIEWED BY THE LXD RESEARCH EXPERT REVIEW PANEL

November 30, 2024

Rachel Schechter, Ph.D.
Founder of LXD Research

DATE

Educators search for high-quality research and evidence-based interventions to strengthen grant applications, to support comprehensive and targeted schools, or to implement new programming in their schools. Evidence requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) are designed to ensure that states, districts, and schools can identify programs, practices, products, and policies that work across various populations.

Educational programs document their evidence of design, effectiveness, and impact in order to be eligible for federal funding. While there is no singular authority that determines a program's tier, the Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology provides standards to assess the varying levels of strength of research for education products.

The categories for ESSA Evidence are: strong (Tier 1), moderate (Tier 2), and promising (Tier 3) evidence of effectiveness, or demonstrates a rationale to be effective (Tier 4).

This product meets the requirements for Tier 4:

- ✓ Documentation of how the product's design relates to intended outcomes, with corresponding academic, published research
- ✓ Describes the product's features and outcomes in a logic model
- ✓ A study is planned and/or currently underway
- ★ A third-party research organization has reviewed the documentation for ESSA validation



When product designers leverage learning sciences to design their programs, educators can better target instruction, and students' skills soar. Through interviews with the product designers, an evaluation of their research-informed activities, and a planning of an efficacy study, this product meets the criteria for LXD Research's ESSA Tier 4 Evidence.

– Rachel Schechter, Ph.D., Founder of LXD Research

What is Just Right Reader?

Just Right Reader supports the development of all the elements of Structured Literacy (phonology, sound-symbol association, syllables, morphology, syntax, and semantics) incorporating research-based best practices for reading and language development. Its decodables, training, and support materials were created to be engaging and high-quality practice materials for at school and at home.



Just Right Reader Materials

- Classroom Libraries
 - Science of reading decodable books
 - Aligned to your core phonics program
 - Starter libraries include 10 books
- Take-Everywhere Decodable Packs
 - Science of Reading decodable books individualized based on student assessment data
 - Writing pages
 - Backpack
 - Research-based supplemental activities
 - Video Phonics lessons
 - 1, 5 or 11 rounds of materials
 - Available in English and Spanish
- Additional Programs
 - Newcomer packs, Early Childhood Literacy, High Dosage Tutoring, Professional Development, Phonics Toolkits

Just Right Reader™ has made significant investments to make their content accessible, including braille books and books with high contrast colors and enlarged fonts for visually impaired students, inclusive storytelling, video accessibility features and adherence to compliance standards.



Just Right Reader's Mission

Just Right Reader strives to make reading fun and to support students emergent literacy with engaging decodables that are representative of students in America's schools. When students want to read and feel successful, their achievement rises!

About the Founder



Just Right Reader was founded by Sara Rich, a principal dedicated to making reading accessible and enjoyable for all students. Rich has traveled across the country supporting schools in reading, writing and literacy development and was recognized as the San Francisco Mayor's Principal of the Year due to her success in raising school reading achievement levels. Rich used decodable books to improve her daughter's early literacy skills when she struggled with learning to read. The books were impactful for literacy growth but Rich and her daughter both thought that they could be more engaging. In response to this, Rich assembled a team of reading and phonics experts and formed Just Right Reader. Their goal is to make reading fun and to motivate students to read with decodable books that are relatable to and representative of students across the nation.



Take-Everywhere decodable packs: Promising Evidence

Second Grade students participated in a pilot study using the Just Right Reader Take-Everywhere decodable packs at home.

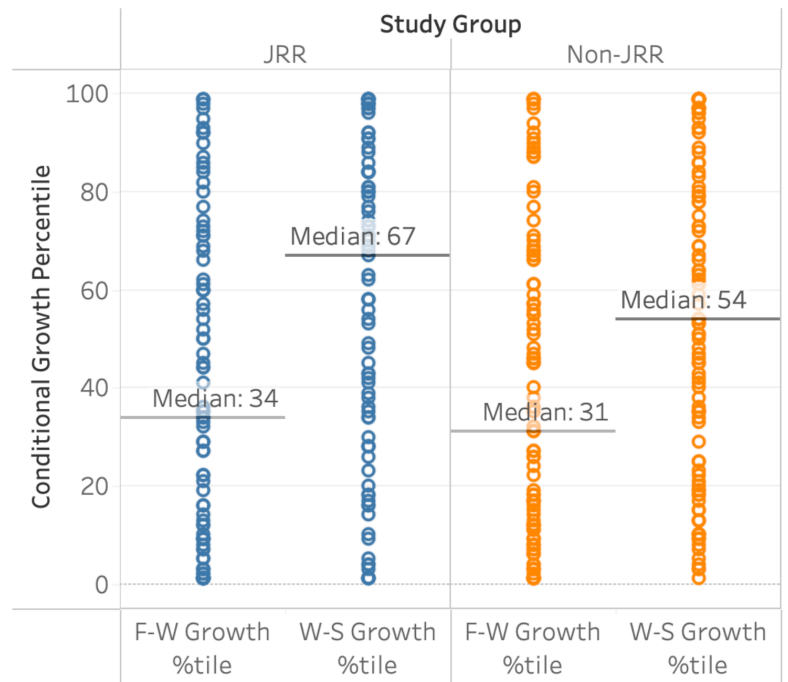
Each student received 50 decodable books over the course of 6 weeks; books were distributed approximately once per week in sets of 10, along with a backpack for each student to use for transport. Students kept all books as their own.



Students and their caregivers were asked to practice reading at least three times per week, 15 minutes each practice. To encourage usage, students who documented reading four or more times per week could access a special prize chest, and the classroom with the most reading participation got a pizza party.

The students in classrooms that participated in this study and used the Just Right Reader materials showed meaningful progress between the mid-year and end-of-year assessments, making more than typical growth on their spring assessments, and showing an increased rate of growth from fall to spring. These improvements were larger than those of students who did not use Just Right Reader books.

This study demonstrated that students who needed and were given extra phonics practice time grew their literacy skills





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Just Right Reader Foundational Research

Just Right Reader Decodable Books: Classroom Libraries and Take Everywhere Packs

Just Right Reader helps students learn to read with engaging and relatable literacy resources that include decodable books supported by video phonics lessons and writing pages, tailored to each student's literacy needs.

How Can This Research Foundations Paper Be Used?

This foundational research paper aims to explain the innovative strategies, pedagogical approaches, and empirical evidence that inform this program's design. This paper answers, "How was research used to create this program?" by narratively describing the program's theory of action. The program components and its intended outcomes are framed in a logic model required as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). While the details of what is required for each federal funding program are slightly different ([Non-Regulatory Guidance document](#)), the information in this document should satisfy the requirements for "demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such activity, strategy, or intervention." Each section in this paper details how Just Right Readers engages students in learning, helps motivate them through increasing independence, deepens their reading skills, transfers and extends these concepts and strategies to strengthen phonics, and solidifies their ownership of reading and literacy.

Key Points

- **Decodable Books Encourage Early Reading Success:** Highly decodable books can enhance independence and motivation in young readers by encouraging the use and practice of decoding strategies, which benefits reading accuracy. Reading is an achievable challenge with their developing decoding skills.
- **Personalized Practice with Phonics Skills:** Students develop decoding skills at different rates, but students practice decoding with books tailored to their current decoding ability sets them up for success and independence.



- **Relatable and Representative Storytelling:** Books with diverse characters and storylines are more likely to be representative of their student readers. Students are more engaged and motivated to read books they perceive as authentic and reflect their experiences.
- **Enhanced Access and Caregiver Involvement in Reading:** Providing books to families expands access to reading materials. Giving parents tools to successfully help their children read has demonstrated impact in positive attitudes towards reading, accelerated emergent reading skill development, and increased reading time and proficiency.
- **Role of Teachers and Instructional Methods:** The approach and attitude of teachers toward reading instruction are crucial, often more so than the specific type of text used. Teachers' instructional support and strategies play a vital role in reading success.

What are Decodable Books, and Why Does it Matter?

Instructional Approach

Decodable books are specifically designed to help early readers with the letter-to-sound-to-word connection. They do this by including a high proportion of words that can be sounded out using the phonemes (combined letter sounds) that students have already been taught. This makes them an ideal tool for early readers who are still mastering the basics of phonics. Additionally, phonemic awareness instruction significantly enhances students' phonics decoding skills, word reading accuracy, reading comprehension, and spelling (Ehri et al., 2001). Unlike traditional storybooks, which may include a mix of familiar and unfamiliar words, decodable books focus on reinforcing the specific sounds and letter combinations that children are learning in their phonics lessons.

Decodable books are intended to be used progressively, with advancement based on accumulated phonological skills through phoneme and letter sound pattern recognition and repetition (Birch et al., 2022; Mesner, 2000). This differs from leveled reading books that are used in 61% of K-2nd grade classrooms and have been ubiquitous for decades (Schwartz, 2024). Leveled texts are also designed for early readers, but there is a greater focus on natural language, context, story elements, high-frequency words and scaffolding (Birch et al., 2022; Fountas & Pinnell, 2012).

Decodable books have been critiqued for their limited vocabulary, unnatural cadence and for unengaging muted narratives (Birch et al., 2022). However, Just Right Reader's books are designed to be highly decodable *and* contextually engaging. Students have an option to start with Just Right Reader Pre-Emergent Books that focus on letter-sound knowledge and letter recognition prior to the decodable books and video lessons that explicitly support students' phonemic awareness and decoding skills. The combination of phonemes, decoding, and



letter-sound recognition has been found to be significantly beneficial for beginning readers (Webber et al., 2023). They are supplemental to a school’s primary curriculum, intended to be used as additional materials in progressing student literacy and phonics.

By providing repeated opportunities to practice analyzing and reading words both in isolation and in context, Just Right Reader aims to advance students at the partial alphabetic reading stage¹ to the consolidated alphabetic stage.² Just Right Reader’s goal is to help students build confidence in reading and foster independence through phonics instruction, repeated practice and engaging reading material.



Just Right Reader’s Origin

Just Right Reader is a literacy resource company dedicated to providing research-based, high-quality reading materials and professional development services for students, teachers, and schools. Just Right Reader was founded by Sara Rich, a principal dedicated to making reading

¹ Students are considered in the partial alphabetic stage of reading when they understand letter names and most sounds but are only beginning to detect and comprehend phonemes, which are the shortest sounds within a word, i.e. the ‘ch’ sound from the combined letters c and h in the word ‘cheek.’

² This is when a student can recognize the spellings and patterns of phonemes that recur across multiple words and apply that understanding to multisyllabic words; for example, the ability to recognize and isolate the sounds of the word *hum-or-ous* and then blend those sounds to read and pronounce it (Ehri, 2005; 2014; 2020).



accessible and enjoyable for all students. Rich has traveled across the country supporting schools in reading, writing and literacy development and was recognized as the San Francisco Mayor's Principal of the Year due to her success in raising school reading achievement levels. Rich used decodable books to improve her daughter's early literacy skills when she struggled to read. The books were impactful for literacy growth but Rich and her daughter both thought the books could be more engaging and fun. In response to this, Rich assembled a team of reading and phonics experts and formed Just Right Reader, following a mission to make reading fun, and to engage students with decodable books that are relatable to and representative of students across the nation. Just Right Reader's products include Take-Everywhere Decodables, Classroom Libraries, and engaging literacy resources in both English and Spanish, all designed to align with the Science of Reading principles.

What are the Just Right Reader Products?

Just Right Reader products are available for pre-kindergarten through 5th-grade students, specifically targeted toward learners between pre-emergent reading skills and approximately 3rd-grade reading level. Just Right Reader materials are designed to be culturally relevant, accessible, and tailored to meet the diverse learning needs of students and teachers. Each decodable book includes QR codes linked to video phonics lessons, enabling easy access for teachers and parents to support students' literacy practice. Lesson plans, assessments, and professional development are included in their resources for educator education.



Just Right Reader's **Take-Everywhere Literacy Packs** are designed to give every student powerful phonics practice in school and at home. Every Pack includes 5-10 Science of Reading decodable books personalized for each student based on district reading assessment data, and include research based activities, writing pages, and video phonics lessons to reinforce skills. Take-Everywhere books are used first in the classroom for two weeks in small reading groups, then taken home, or anywhere, for further reading practice.

Just Right Reader's **Classroom Libraries** are aligned to core programs and state standards, and include authentic and engaging decodable books to accelerate reading achievement in all schools and districts. Libraries additionally include resources for educators, video phonics lessons and ADA accessible materials.



Just Right Reader also provides literacy resources and professional development to teachers and districts. These include lesson plans for each book, assignments supporting phonemic patterns, spelling activities, High-Frequency Words, Reading Bingo, etc. These scaffolded resources help students improve their overall reading fluency (words per minute) and accuracy (Mesmer, 2009).



Just Right Reader

Just Right Reader Logic Model

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In 2018, The National Assessment of Educational Progress Report identified a critical gap between students' ability to decode text and foundational literacy. The report along with other literacy research emphasized the importance of both word recognition and language comprehension skills (Scarborough, 2001). The ability to decode text underlies word recognition (Kilpatrick, 2015), and Just Right Readers Decodable Books are designed to support phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and motivation in young children. Additionally, families with young readers need materials to engage with because family involvement is crucial for improving reading outcomes in children (Senechal & LeFevre, 2002). The Take Everywhere Literacy Packs empower families by providing appropriate decodable books for children to take home, creating opportunities for meaningful reading experiences between parents and children. These packs are designed to support children's phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency while strengthening the bond between the home and school.

RESOURCES

What resources are or could be available?

- Over 800+ decodable books aligned with the Science of Reading
- Literacy resources for teachers including lesson plans, activities to support foundational skills, assessments and progress monitoring
- Tailored phonics instructional videos
- Authentic and relatable storylines involving diverse characters.
- The first page of each book includes sounds to look for, a QR code to a phonics video lesson and/or phonics tips specific to the book, and highlights new vocabulary
- Review section at the end of each book that includes the target phonics skill, additional decoding practice, the list of decodable words, the list of high frequency words, and a QR code for a video reading lesson.
- Each book includes a link to the lesson plan for teacher support and explicit instruction
- Texts available in English and Spanish
- Video lessons are offered in both English and Spanish
- Color-coded by decoding skill and/or grade level
- Books include cumulative and spaced practice on phonetic sounds and skills
- Educator professional development, including Virtual Science of Reading symposiums.
- An online community group that connects educators across the country.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

What will the activities, events, and such be?

Teachers:

- Integrate Decodables into instruction, including whole class instruction, guided reading, small groups, and independent practice.
- Use lesson plans on phonemic patterns, spelling activities, High Frequency Words, Reading Bingo, etc. to build foundational skills
- Use QR code for quick access to phonic video lessons.
- Provide and encourage students to use resources consistently.
- Participate in professional development on teaching foundational literacy skills.
- Assess students' literacy skills
- Adjust Decodables offered to students based on their reading progress.

Students:

- Practice reading Decodable Books with a narrative at their level.
- Learn letter-sound connections at a steady pace and practice previous phonograms
- Watch phonic video lessons
- Review target phonic skills, decodable vocabulary, and high-frequency words after reading.
- Read and reread Decodables
- Complete writing activity and formative assessment included in each lesson plan.



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Just Right Reader Logic Model

RESOURCES, CONTINUED

What resources are or could be available?

Classroom Libraries:

- Collections of decodable books that follow a rigorous progression of phonics skills.
- Offered in sets of one and sets of six to support small groups

Take Everywhere Literacy Packs

- Customized to students' phonics knowledge
- Parent/Caregiver letter and district introduction video to create a sense of community
- Each pack includes multiple books, writing pages, research-based activities, and video phonic lessons.
- Turn-key implementation materials for districts, teachers, and families, including lesson plans and formative assessments

STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES, CONTINUED

What will the activities, events, and such be?

Administrators:

- Distribute Decodable products to supplement existing phonics instruction.
- Provide professional development sessions for teachers and administrators.
- Create family welcome videos in all students' home languages to foster a sense of community

Classroom Libraries:

- Across the year, students read the books in the library.
- Students use sets to engage in small group reading

Take Everywhere Literacy Packs

- Every 2-3 weeks students bring home a new set of books at their level.
- Students practice reading and complete activities included in the 10 books sent home with each pack
- Parents/Caregivers read Decodables and watch phonic video lessons with child in English or Spanish depending on their home language.

OUTPUTS

What are the initial products of these activities?

- Expand vocabulary knowledge through contextual learning.
- Incrementally increase in phonemic awareness and decoding skills.
- Engage in group reading, peer reading, and independent reading Independently read decodable books and understand the story narrative of books they read.
- Continuously increase the difficulty of texts being read.

Administrators:

- Record implementation and professional development resources provided to teachers.
- Better understanding of students' reading level through district-administered literacy assessment data.

Classroom Libraries:

- Increase interest in reading by being able to choose engaging books from the Classroom Library.
- Peer-to-peer support of literacy within small groups



Just Right Reader

OUTPUTS, CONTINUED

What are the initial products of these activities?

Take Everywhere Literacy Packs

- Families increase their reading time at home.
- Increased understanding of phonics through video lessons at home.
- Parents/Caregivers gain insight into child's reading abilities and progress through customized materials
- Families create positive emotional connections during reading time.
- Parents/Caregivers feel more connected to the districts' goals of increasing literacy and community

SHORT-TERM AND INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Teachers:

- Differentiate reading instruction to meet the unique literacy needs of all students, including English language learners and students receiving special education services.
- Create learning environments that support student reading and efficacy.

Students:

- More rapidly develop foundational literacy skills in a spiraled progression, including phonemic awareness, decoding, word recognition and comprehension.
- Demonstrate improved fluency in reading and overall literacy achievement.
- Improve their reading confidence which increases enjoyment in reading and independent reading time.
- Demonstrate increased interest and engagement in reading

Take Everywhere Literacy Packs:

- Students develop positive reading habits at home with their families.
- Students increase independent reading time at home which supports children's reading confidence.
- Parents/caregivers increase involvement in their child's literacy growth at home and demonstrate increased confidence in their ability to contribute to child's literacy development.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

Teachers:

- Develop expertise in integrating decodable texts and phonics-based strategies across various learning settings (whole class, small groups, independent practice).
- Grow professionally by understanding research-based instructional methods.
- Change instructional practices based on the Science of Reading.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS, CONTINUED

Students:

- Achieve higher levels of reading comprehension.
- Increased percentage of students reading at grade level or proficient and beyond.
- Develop greater motivation to read increasingly complex text.
- Apply enhanced reading skills across subjects, contributing to sustained academic success.
- Families have increased interest in school activities and functions.

Administrators:

- Ensure that students receive appropriate literacy support year over year.
- Connect teachers with Science of Reading professional development, including symposiums.

ASSUMPTIONS

- Teachers have time to instruct with decodable books and engage with professional development
- School districts are motivated to incorporate a new literacy tool

Take Everywhere Literacy Packs:

- Students' use of Take-Everywhere Packs are not used in isolation at home but with some parent support/guidance.
- Parent has literacy and language skills that align with the decodable books

Who uses Just Right Readers?

- PreK-5 grade students
- Teachers
- Families/Caregivers
- School and district administrators



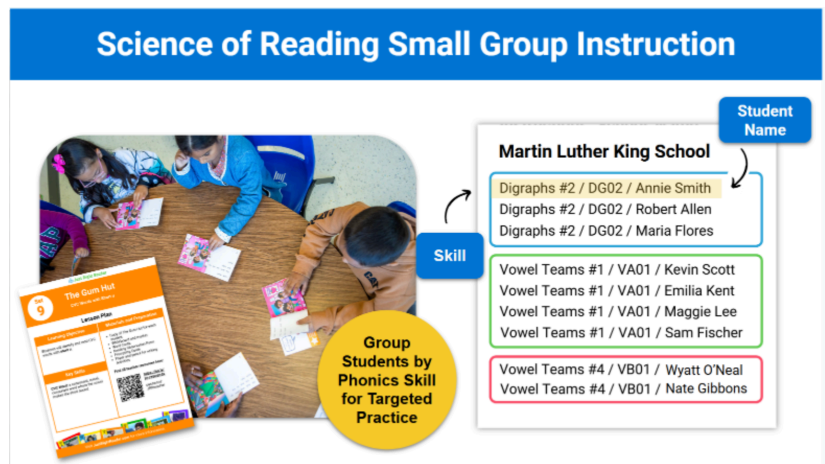
How Does Just Right Reader Help Students Learn?

Just Right Reader’s literacy resources include decodable books, an established tool to help students learn to read that are attached to many features supporting reading. Just Right Reader amplifies impact through relatable story content, multiple methods of instruction and fostering a home-school connection.

Tailored to each students’ needs: confidence and independence building

The Just Right Reader Take-Everywhere Packs are tailored to each student’s needs based on district assessment data, allowing the reader to practice and apply the decoding skills they have learned in a manageable and authentic context that fits within their zone of proximal development (Vygotsky, 1987). This individualized approach allows educators to customize their instruction to meet the needs of each student, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. Because the books are aligned with a student’s personal reading skills, they’re set up to experience a greater sense of accomplishment and more independence. This combination of feeling autonomous, competent, and connected during reading practice helps students stay motivated to continue building their literacy skills (Ryan & Deci, 2000). The books also provide adequate scaffolding through phonics instruction that is tailored to each student.

Take-Everywhere Packs are initially used in the classroom and then sent home. The two-week period of classroom use provides teachers with the opportunity to observe and assist each student individually with the books, establishing a foundation in student understanding of the books before the repeated practice that will occur in the home. Additionally, during this time, teachers may assign children with similar reading needs to small reading groups based on their Just Right Reader books. Small group instruction is highly effective especially in early elementary school (Hall & Burns, 2018) as it provides social learning and motivation along with collaborative comprehension through peer discussions.






Integrated use of repeated and distributed practice

Just Right Reader

Set 7
In the Bag
CVC Words with Short i

Lesson Plan

Learning Objective	Materials and Preparation
Students will identify and read CVC words with short i.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of <i>In the Bag</i> for each student • Elkonin boxes • Dry-erase markers • Picture of fin • Paper and pencil • Reading Observation Form • Prompting Guide
Key Skills	
CVC Word: A consonant, vowel, consonant word where the vowel makes the short sound.	<p>Find all teacher resources here:</p> <p>https://bit.ly/jr-resources password: JRRteacher</p> 

Visit JustRightReader.com for more information.

Research has established that effective learning requires distributed practice, cumulative review, repeated practice, and interleaved content presentation (Dunlosky et al., 2013; Hughes & Lee, 2019; Kang, 2016; Latimier et al., 2020). Learners retain information best when practice is spaced out over time (Carpenter et al., 2012), repeated (Hiebert, 2006), and integrates prior knowledge with new content (Linn, 2006). Just Right Reader implements these evidence-based practices through its carefully structured decodable books and supporting materials.

Just Right Reader systematically incorporates repeated practice and cumulative review in its decodable texts. Each text revisits previously taught phonemes while introducing new ones, ensuring ongoing reinforcement. For instance, when students progress from learning initial consonant sounds to short vowels, the texts continue to reinforce the consonant sounds they have already mastered while providing opportunities to practice the

new vowel sounds. This approach aligns with research showing that interleaving old and new content enhances learning retention.

Just Right Reader supports fluency through repeated reading opportunities, aligned with evidence that repeated practice enhances reading achievement (Therrien, 2004). With over 800 decodable books, there are several texts available for each skill level, allowing students to gain meaningful repeated practice decoding words containing familiar sound-letter relationships. Given the amount of content, readers can repeatedly practice their phonics skills without getting bored of the same storyline over and over.

Get to Know Our Decodables!

Explicit Phonics Instruction: The inside and back cover of each decodable highlights the phonics skill covered.



Phonics Lesson: Scan the QR code on each decodable to watch a phonics lesson in Spanish and English.

High Five Reading: Extra fun on the back of each decodable to encourage students to read and reread!



As students advance in their decoding skills, the complexity and length of texts increase, building from simple sentences to more detailed passages. This progression fosters a sense of accomplishment, helping students feel autonomous and confident in their reading abilities (Ryan & Deci, 2000). By experiencing success with increasingly challenging texts, students develop confidence in their reading abilities while maintaining access to appropriate levels of support.

Strengthening the home-school connection

At-home access to books that students can successfully read has clear potential to improve student literacy achievement and to encourage family engagement with student reading practices, further enhancing literacy gains. Greater access to high-quality, relatable books, particularly at home, correlates with higher academic performance, boosts reading motivation, and fosters positive attitudes toward reading (Allington, 2014; Gambrell, 2011). The American Institutes for Research for the Reading Is Fundamental Community Foundation conducted a meta-analysis of 108 studies on the impacts of providing free books to students to read at home. The findings suggest there are numerous advantages to this method (McGill-Franzen, A. & Cahill, 2016):

- Acceleration of development of emergent reading skills
- Increase in reading proficiency
- Improved attitudes toward reading
- Increase reading time due to the increased volume of books available

Research strongly demonstrates the pivotal role of home-school literacy connections in student success. Just Right Reader's Take Home Packs directly align with evidence showing that dedicated take-home literacy materials significantly enhance learning outcomes and academic achievement (Anderson, 2000; Galindo & Sheldon, 2012; Zeece & Wallace, 2009). By providing students with high-quality decodable books, Just Right Reader implements research-backed practices that have been shown to boost both reading performance and motivation. Studies confirm that increased access to appropriate books at home correlates with stronger academic performance and more enthusiastic engagement with reading (Allington, 2014; Gambrell, 2011). The Take Home Packs serve as a crucial bridge between classroom instruction and home





practice, creating the kind of sustained learning environment that research indicates is essential for early reading success.

Galindo and Sheldon's (2012) large-scale study of over 16,000 kindergartners demonstrated that schools' efforts to communicate with and engage families predicted higher levels of student achievement in reading. Just Right Reader directly applies these findings through multiple research-backed features: increasing access to reading materials, providing multilingual phonics videos to engage families regardless of their home language, and incorporating a family letter and support hub to facilitate school-home communication. Just Right Reader's resources are designed to empower all caregivers to actively participate in their children's literacy development, including those from non-English speaking backgrounds. The program's emphasis on clear family support materials and take-home practice opportunities directly responds to the research finding that greater family involvement correlates with enhanced reading achievement in young readers.

Just Right Reader's Take-Everywhere Packs facilitate caregiver involvement and investment in their child's reading while providing support for both child and parent. Student ownership of the books, both literally and academically, is reiterated through the personalized labels with each student's name that adorn the Take-Everywhere books, bringing a level of personalization and a sense of belonging to support motivation (Yonezawa et al., 2012). The classroom support prior to sending books home ensures student familiarity with the material, reinforcing confidence, understanding and feelings of success. Just Right Reader provides instruction for families through family night events at school and online resources to support their usage with their children.

Relevant stories and diverse characters

Effective texts should be engaging to encourage students to read (Blevins, 2017). Engaging books have to have several key characteristics: age-appropriate complexity with a balance between challenge and achievability, clear appealing illustrations, characters and situations that children relate to and are interested in. Many decodable books fail to captivate young readers, making it challenging for children to stay interested and motivated (Castles & Nation, 2018).

Just Right Reader decodable books were intentionally designed to feature relevant stories and diverse characteristics that reflect students' interests and experiences. Books with narrative storytelling and decoding skills support students' future reading comprehension skills (Lynch et al.,





2008) and stories that are authentic to students' lives motivate and engage them to read (Lindsey, 2022). Additionally, when books have diverse characters and storylines, children are more likely to see themselves in the books and relate to their personal lives (Bishop, 1990; Coon, 2012).

Consistent and familiar characters in the stories as well as the teachers in the phonics videos help students identify with and learn from the Just Right Reader Decodable literacy resources (Dore, 2022). Just as it's important for students' reading materials to include characters that reflect their own identities, it is equally important for children to be exposed to characters with distinct lives, experiences, and cultures since early exposure to diversity can have a lasting impact (Gaias et al., 2018). Just Right Reader is committed to inclusion and diversity in its literacy resources.

Conclusion

Just Right Reader decodable books are a highly useful tool to encourage independence in reading through research-backed methods, focusing on decodability, individualization, relatability and multi-tiered supports for advancing students' phonics comprehension.

Just Right Reader's primary aim is to make reading fun and accessible for children and families. For educators, Just Right Reader's products offer a direct link to each student's home reading habits, increasing the likelihood of additional practice, and inviting parents and caregivers into potentially more active roles with their child's reading development. Just Right Reader's products are a complement to each classroom's curriculum. Just Right Reader is a particularly strong resource for schools addressing learning loss, with individualized books targeting each child's specific needs.

Ready to improve your students' reading skills?

Use these questions to reflect on your current practice, considering the research featured in this paper.

- ❖ How do you currently provide reading interventions or curricular support for your struggling students?
- ❖ Are your students engaged in interactive and motivating activities that build literacy?
- ❖ Do your lessons provide an efficient way to help students access grade-level reading materials?
- ❖ How do you monitor student progress in decoding when they are learning how to read?
- ❖ Are your students demonstrating deep knowledge in phonics?



- ❖ Are your students provided with clear feedback and support to advance their independent reading?
- ❖ Do your students have opportunities to practice their decoding and phonics skills across various contexts?



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