Just Right Reader Decodables Logic Model

Study Type: ESSA Evidence Level IV

Prepared for:
Just Right Reader

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Just Right Reader engaged LearnPlatform by Instructure, a third-party edtech research company, to develop a logic model for Just Right Reader Decodables. LearnPlatform by Instructure designed the logic model to satisfy Level IV requirements (*Demonstrates a Rationale*) according to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).[1]

Logic Model

A logic model provides a program roadmap, detailing program inputs, participants reached, program activities, outputs, and outcomes. LearnPlatform by Instructure collaborated with Just Right Reader to develop and revise the logic model.

Study Design for Just Right Reader Decodables Evaluation

Informed by the logic model, LearnPlatform by Instructure developed a research plan for a study to meet ESSA Level II requirements. The proposed research questions are as follows:

Implementation Question

1. How many Just Right Reader Decodables packs were sent home?

Outcome Question

2. Did students who used Just Right Reader Decodables demonstrate statistically significant gains in literacy content knowledge from the beginning of the school year to the end of the year? How does this compare with students who did not use the product?

Conclusions

This study satisfies ESSA evidence requirements for Level IV (*Demonstrates a Rationale*). Specifically, this study met the following criteria for Level IV:

- ✅ Detailed logic model informed by previous, high-quality research
- ✅ Study planning and design is currently underway for an ESSA Level II study

[1] Level IV indicates that an intervention should include a "well-specified logic model that is informed by research or an evaluation that suggests how the intervention is likely to improve relevant outcomes; and an effort to study the effects of the intervention, that will happen as part of the intervention or is underway elsewhere…" (p. 9, U.S. Department of Education, 2016).

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Introduction

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The study had the following objectives:

1. Define the Just Right Reader logic model and foundational research base.
2. Draft an ESSA Level II study design.

Previous Research. The National Assessment of Educational Progress Report (2018) identified a critical gap between students' ability to decode text and foundational literacy. The report emphasized that reading comprehension strategies could not remediate students' oral reading fluency. For students to become skilled readers, early literacy researchers emphasized the importance of developing both word recognition skills and language comprehension (Scarborough, 2001).

The understanding that word recognition starts with the ability to decode text is a central component of the Science of Reading research (Kilpatrick, 2015). Decoding is the ability to translate written words into spoken language, an essential foundational reading skill (Foorman et al., 2016). In literacy instruction, "Decodables" typically refer to books or reading materials designed to help young readers practice and develop their decoding skills (Foorman et al., 2016). Decodable books are carefully designed to contain a limited number of phonetic patterns and sight words that align with the reader's current level of decoding ability. This allows the reader to practice and apply the decoding skills they have learned in a manageable and appropriate context for their level. Decodable books are often part of a systematic, sequential phonics instruction program. Students learn phonics rules and practice reading words with those rules in a structured and deliberate way (National Reading Panel, 2000; Torgesen & Burgess, 1998). The goal is to build fluency and automaticity in decoding, which supports comprehension and overall reading success (Connor et al., 2014; Foorman et al., 2016; Kilpatrick, 2015). Unfortunately, most decodable texts are difficult to read, do not reflect students' diverse experiences and lives, and do not engage students.

Just Right Reader is a supplemental reading program designed to develop phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and motivation in young children - key components of effective reading instruction (National Reading Panel, 2000). Children develop strong reading skills through personalized and interactive Science of Reading Decodable books. Each Decodable includes a reading activity, a phonics video lesson, and explicit phonics instruction. The Just Right Reader program designs Decodables that provide rigorous phonics instruction, engaging and relevant reading content, opportunities for family involvement in student literacy growth, and quick and easy implementation.

Rigorous phonics instruction. Phonics is an approach to reading instruction focusing on the relationship between sounds and letters. It involves teaching children to recognize the individual sounds in words (phonemes) and the letters or combinations of letters representing those sounds (graphemes). In phonics instruction, children are taught to use their knowledge of letter-sound relationships to decode words they encounter in text. Phonics instruction typically begins with teaching children the basic sounds of each alphabet letter. As they become more proficient, they learn about more complex letter combinations and the sounds they represent. Phonics is often taught with other reading strategies, such as sight word recognition and comprehension strategies, to help children become proficient readers (National Reading Panel, 2000).

Just Right Reader's Decodable texts follow a progression of phonics skills aligned with a rigorous color-coded scope and sequence, including skills such as letter recognition, consonant, vowel, consonant (CVC) sound words, digraphs, beginning and ending blends, high-frequency words, and so on. Just Right Reader provides explicit phonics instruction using increasingly more difficult decodable texts. These texts can be differentiated by customizing Take-Home Decodable Packs using individual student reading district data.

Motivation. Motivation is essential in reading instruction because it can significantly influence students' willingness to learn and engage with reading material. When motivated to read, students are more likely to put in the time and effort necessary to develop their reading skills. Students who are motivated to read have better academic outcomes than those who are not (Guthrie et al., 2001; Guthrie et al., 2012). Also, motivation increases when texts include racially and culturally diverse characters and storylines, as well as other identities, allowing children to see themselves in books, as well as learn about different identities, cultures, and places (Bishop, 1990; Coon, 2012). Educators can motivate and support students' reading development by fostering a love of reading and providing engaging and relevant reading material.

Just Right Reader's Decodables feature relevant stories and diverse characters that reflect students' interests, experiences, and lives. Stories that are authentic to students' lives motivate and engage them to read (Lindsey, 2022).

Family involvement. Family involvement in student literacy growth is important for several reasons. First, it increases exposure to reading. When families are involved in their child's literacy growth, children have more opportunities to be exposed to reading (Senechal & LeFevre, 2002). Second, it improves reading outcomes. Studies have consistently shown that family involvement in reading is associated with improved reading outcomes for children, such as developing reading comprehension skills and engagement with the text (Senechal & LeFevre, 2002). Third, it models literacy behaviors. When parents and family members demonstrate a love of reading and a commitment to literacy, children are more likely to adopt similar attitudes and behaviors (Mol et al., 2009; Senechal & LeFevre, 2002). Lastly, it increases engagement in school. Families involved

in their child's literacy growth are more likely to be engaged in their child's education overall (Epstein & Sheldon, 2002; Henderson & Mapp, 2002).

Just Right Reader provides Take-Home Decodable Packs and accompanying QR Code phonics video lessons, giving parents an easy way to support literacy growth at home.

Implementation. Implementing reading instruction programs must be quick and easy. Time is a valuable commodity in education, and educators have limited time to implement new programs (National Center for Education Statistics, 2019). Further, the complexity of a program can affect its effectiveness. Educators are more likely to use programs that are easy to understand and implement, which are also usually more effective than programs that are complex and difficult to use (Connor et al., 2014). Finally, the ease of implementation can also affect educator buy-in and motivation. Educators are more likely to adopt and implement programs they perceive as manageable and feasible (Long et al., 2016).

The Just Right Reader program was designed to be easily and quickly implemented, saving educators time while maximizing student learning. For example, the Take-Home Decodable Packs can be personalized for each student by Just Right Reader, based on thei. Each Decodable clearly states the phonics lesson, focus skills, and high-frequency words, making it easy for teachers to align Just Right Reader Decodables to supplement their literacy instruction. Furthermore, Decodables are color-coded according to phonics progression for ease of use, and each Decodable includes a phonics lesson plan and phonics video lesson that can be used for individual or small group instruction.

In sum, Just Right Reader is designed to be flexible and adaptable, allowing educators to customize their instruction to meet the needs of individual students. It provides rigorous phonics instruction, engaging and relevant reading content, opportunities for family involvement in student literacy growth, and quick and easy implementation.

Logic Model

A logic model is a program or product roadmap. It identifies how a program aims to impact learners, translating inputs into measurable activities that lead to expected results. A logic model has five core components: inputs, participants, activities, outputs, and outcomes (see Table 1).

Table 1. Logic model core components

Component	Description	More information
Inputs	What the provider invests	What resources are invested and/or required for the learning solution to function effectively in real schools?
Participants	Who the provider reaches	Who receives the learning solution or intervention? Who are the key users?

Activities	What participants do	What do participants do with the resources identified in Inputs? What are the core/essential components of the learning solution? What is being delivered to help students/teachers achieve the program outcomes identified?
Outputs	Products of activities	What are numeric indicators of activities? (e.g., key performance indicators; allows for examining program implementation)
Outcomes	Short-term, intermediate, long-term	Short-term outcomes are changes in awareness, knowledge, skills, attitudes, and aspirations. Intermediate outcomes are changes in behaviors or actions. Long-term outcomes are ultimate impacts or changes in social, economic, civil or environmental conditions.

LearnPlatform by Instructure reviewed Just Right Reader resources, artifacts, and program materials to develop a draft logic model. Just Right Reader reviewed the draft and provided revisions during virtual meetings. The final logic model depicted below (Figure 1) reflects these conversations and revisions.

Just Right Reader Decodables

Logic Model

Problem Statement: Central to the Science of Reading[1] research is the understanding that the ability to decode text is a foundational skill needed to be a successful reader. Unfortunately, most Decodable texts have low levels of decodability, do not reflect students' diverse experiences and lives, and do not engage students. Just Right Reader (JRR) is a reading program designed to develop phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills in young children.

Inputs

What does JRR Decodables provide?

- Over 700+ and growing Science of Reading Decodable books in English and Spanish with authentic and relatable stories involving diverse characters
- Decodable Classroom Libraries[2] that follow a rigorous progression of phonics skills
- Take-Home Decodable Packs[2] that include Decodables customized to student data
- Phonics video lesson for each Decodable in English and Spanish
- Free Decodable E-Library
- Turn-key implementation materials for districts, teachers, and families, incl. lesson plans and formative assessments
- Educator professional development, incl. virtual Science of Reading symposiums
- An online community group that connects educators across the country

Participants

Who uses JRR Decodables?

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

Activities

How are participants using JRR Decodables?

STUDENTS
- Read and reread Decodables using the Decodable Classroom Library
- Participate in reading lessons included with each Decodable
- Review phonics skills with video lessons
- Take Decodable Packs home for independent practice and share them with families/caregivers
- Complete district-administered literacy assessments to inform Take-Home Decodable Packs
- Complete writing activity and formative assessment included in each lesson plan

TEACHERS
- Make Decodable Classroom Libraries available to students
- Integrate Decodables into instruction, incl. whole class instruction, guided reading, small groups, and independent practice
- Implement lesson plans included with each Decodable
- Provide customized Take-Home Decodable Packs and make appropriate modifications based on student progress
- Facilitate district-administered literacy assessments to inform Take-Home Decodable Packs
- Participate in professional development

ADMINISTRATORS
- Facilitate implementation of Decodable products[2] to supplement existing phonics instruction
- Share literacy assessment data with JRR to inform Take-Home Decodable Packs
- Participate in and support teacher attendance at professional development sessions

FAMILIES/CAREGIVERS
- Read Decodables with child
- Watch phonics video lessons with child

Outputs

What are the measurable results of implementing JRR Decodables?

STUDENTS
- Number of Decodables students read at school
- Number of reading lessons students participated in
- Number of phonics video lessons watched by students
- Number and nature of Take-Home Decodable Packs sent home
- Literacy assessment scores
- Number of writing activities and formative assessments completed

TEACHERS
- Number of Decodables available in Classroom Library
- Number of times teachers integrated Decodables in classroom instruction and method of delivery
- Number of times teachers implemented lesson plans included with each Decodable
- Number of Take-Home Decodable Packs sent home with students
- Number of times teachers adjusted Take-Home Decodable Packs based on student progress
- Number and nature of district-administered literacy assessments facilitated
- Attendance at professional development sessions

ADMINISTRATORS
- Number and nature of implementation resources provided to teachers
- Number and type of district-administered literacy assessment data shared
- Number of professional development sessions administrators attended and/or supported

FAMILIES/CAREGIVERS
- Number of Decodables read at home
- Number of phonics video lessons viewed

Outcomes

What are the expected changes or impacts of using JRR Decodables?

SHORT-TERM

Students
- Have access to differentiated Decodable reading materials based on the Science of Reading
- Develop foundational literacy skills in a spiraled progression, incl. phonemic awareness, decoding, and comprehension
- Increase independent reading time at home

Teachers
- Supplement instructional practices with Science of Reading Decodable texts, incl. whole class instruction, guided reading, small groups, and independent practice

Administrators
- Provide effective literacy resources at their school or district

Families/Caregivers
- Support their child to read at home

INTERMEDIATE

Students
- Demonstrate improved decoding skills and literacy achievement
- Increase reading confidence

Teachers
- Differentiate reading instruction to meet the unique literacy needs of all students, incl. English language learners and students receiving special education services
- Change instructional practices based on the Science of Reading

Administrators
- Connect teachers with Science of Reading professional development, incl. symposiums

Families/Caregivers
- Increase involvement in their child's literacy growth at home

LONG-TERM

Students
- Increased percentage of students reading at grade level or proficient and beyond
- Develop greater motivation to read increasingly complex texts
- Develop positive reading habits at home with their families

Teachers
- Feel supported professionally with research-based instructional resources and professional development

Administrators
- Ensure that students receive appropriate literacy supports year over year

Families/Caregivers
- Reinforce students' positive reading habits at home

[1]The Science of Reading is a multidisciplinary field that seeks to understand how people learn to read and how the brain processes written language. By understanding the underlying cognitive processes involved in reading, evidence-based practices for teaching can be developed to improve literacy outcomes. Effective reading instruction has several critical components: Phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and motivation.
[2]Decocable Classroom Libraries and Take-Home Decodable Packs are two distinct products to be purchased separately by the district.

Prepared for Just Right Reader, May 2023

Figure 1. Just Right Reader Decodables logic model

Just Right Reader Decodables Logic Model Components. Just Right Reader invests several resources into their program, including:

- Over 700+ and growing Science of Reading Decodable books with authentic and relatable stories involving diverse characters
- Decodable Classroom Libraries that follow a rigorous text progression of phonics skills
- Take-Home Decodable Packs that include Decodables customized to student data
- Phonics Video Lesson for each Decodable in Spanish and English
- Free Decodable E-Library
- Turn-Key implementation materials for districts, teachers, and families, including lesson plans and formative assessments
- Teacher professional development, including virtual Science of Reading symposiums
- An online community group that connects teachers across the country

Ultimately, the Just Right Reader program aims to reach PreK-5 grade students, teachers, families/caregivers, and school and district administrators.

Using these program resources, the participants can engage with the Just Right Reader platform in the following activities:

Students

- Students read and reread Decodables using the Decodable Classroom Library
- Participate in reading lessons included with each Decodable
- Review phonics skills with video lessons
- Take Decodable Packs home for independent practice and share them with families/caregivers
- Complete district-administered literacy assessments to inform Take-Home Decodable Packs
- Complete writing activity and formative assessment included in each lesson plan

Teachers

- Make Decodable Classroom Libraries available to students
- Integrate Decodables into instruction, including whole class instruction, guided reading, small groups, and independent practice
- Implement lesson plans included with each Decodable
- Provide customized Take-Home Decodable Packs and make appropriate modifications based on student progress
- Facilitate district-administered literacy assessments to inform Take-Home Decodable Packs
- Participate in professional development

Administrators

- Facilitate implementation of Decodable products to supplement existing phonics instruction
- Share literacy assessment data with Just Right Reader to inform Take-Home Decodable Packs
- Participate in and support teacher attendance at professional development sessions

Families/Caregivers

- Read Decodables with child
- Watch phonics video lessons with child

Just Right Reader can examine the extent to which core activities were delivered and participants were reached by examining the following quantifiable outputs:

Students

- Number of Decodables students read at school
- Number of reading lessons students participated in
- Number of phonics video lessons watched by students
- Number and nature of Take-Home Decodable Packs sent home
- Literacy assessment scores
- Number of writing activities and formative assessments completed

Teachers

- Number of Decodables available in Classroom Library
- Number of times teachers integrated Decodables in classroom instruction and method of delivery
- Number of times teachers implemented lesson plans included with each Decodable
- Number of Take-Home Dedocable Packs sent home with students
- Number and nature of times teachers implemented lesson plans provided for each Decodable
- Number of times teachers adjusted Take-Home Dedocable Packs based on student progress
- Number and nature of district-administered literacy assessments facilitated
- Attendance at professional development sessions

Administrators

- Number and nature of implementation resources provided to teachers
- Number and type of district-administered literacy assessment data shared
- Number of professional development sessions administrators attended and/or supported

Families/Caregivers

- Number of Decodables read at home
- Number of phonics video lessons viewed

If implementation is successful, based on a review of program outputs, Just Right Reader can expect the following short-term outcomes.

Product use outcomes (students)

In the short term, students will have access to differentiated Decodable reading materials based on the Science of Reading. They will develop foundational literacy skills in a spiraled progression, including phonemic awareness, decoding, and comprehension. Lastly, they will increase independent reading time at home.

In the intermediate, students will demonstrate improved decoding skills and literacy achievement and increase reading confidence.

In the long term, an increased percentage of students will be reading at grade level or proficient and beyond. Students will develop greater motivation to read increasingly complex texts and develop positive reading habits at home with their families.

Implementation/Contextual outcomes (teachers, administrators, and families/caregivers)

In the short term, teachers will supplement instructional practices with Science of Reading Decodable texts, including whole class instruction, guided reading, small groups, and independent practice. Administrators will provide effective literacy resources at their school or district. Families/caregivers will support their child to read at home

In the intermediate, teachers will differentiate reading instruction to meet the unique literacy needs of all students, including English language learners and students receiving special education services. Teachers will also change instructional practices based on the Science of Reading. Administrators will connect teachers with Science of Reading professional development, including symposiums. Families/Caregivers will increase involvement in their child's literacy growth at home.

In the long term, teachers will feel supported professionally with research-based instructional resources and professional development. Administrators will ensure that students will receive appropriate literacy supports year over year. Families/caregivers will reinforce students' positive reading habits at home.

Study Design for Just Right Reader Decodables Evaluation

To continue building evidence of effectiveness and to examine the proposed relationships in the logic model, Just Right Reader has plans to conduct an evaluation to determine the extent to which its program produces the desired outcomes. Specifically, Just Right Reader has plans to begin an ESSA Level II study to answer the following research questions:

Implementation Question

1. How many Just Right Reader Decodables packs were sent home?

Outcome Question

2. Did students who used Just Right Reader Decodables demonstrate statistically significant gains in literacy content knowledge from the beginning of the school year to the end of the year? How does this compare with students who did not use the product?

Conclusions

This study satisfies ESSA evidence requirements for Level IV (*Demonstrates a Rationale*). Specifically, this study met the following criteria for Level IV:

✅ Detailed logic model informed by previous, high-quality research
✅ Study planning and design is currently underway for an ESSA Level II study

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