



Just Right Reader

TEXAS

# Teacher's Edition



Just Right Reader Decodables

# Supplemental Spanish Phonics



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Sample

# Just Right Reader Spanish Decodables



## Just Right Reader Decodables

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## Just Right Reader Decodables: A Core Component of Literacy Development

Welcome to Just Right Reader, where our passion for literacy excellence fuels everything we do! Our decodable books are crafted joyfully and precisely by leading phonics experts and literacy researchers. We are dedicated to creating a vibrant, engaging experience that nurtures a lifelong love of reading. Just Right Reader Decodables are not just essential—they are transformative for educators, students, and families seeking to bolster literacy skills in exciting and effective ways.

Our decodable books use lively, engaging videos and vibrantly illustrated texts that captivate young minds and inspire them to read, re-read, and remain engaged. These resources are designed to seamlessly supplement any core phonics program, helping to build strong, confident readers. Each book and video is carefully tailored to support the reading journey, turning it into an adventure filled with discovery and joy.

Just Right Reader proudly promotes literacy as a foundational skill by offering equitable access to inclusive, scientifically-grounded decodable materials. Our decodables are perfect for enhancing any curriculum, providing personalized packs that meet the unique needs of each student. Just Right Reader resources do more than teach—they empower students and engage families, making the reading process a shared, enriching experience. Join us at Just Right Reader, and let's make literacy a thrilling adventure for every learner!

## Program Design, Methodology, and Research

### Just Right Reader English Decodables

Just Right Reader Decodables are designed with Science of Reading research to supplement structured literacy and phonics instruction. Our decodables library includes a large number of titles to support ample opportunities for interleaving phonics practice, which helps students to better retain information. The sheer number of titles provides the opportunity for content diversity, thus increasing student engagement. It also promotes active learning by encouraging students to make connections between books.

### The Five Pillars of Reading

Just Right Reader Decodables leverages the Science of Reading to integrate the five pillars of reading—phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension—into each component of our curriculum, ensuring students not only learn how to read but also enjoy and understand their reading experiences.

**Phonemic Awareness:** Just Right Reader Decodables help students master the sounds in spoken words, which is foundational for decoding. Our materials include specific exercises focusing on sound recognition and manipulation, ensuring students can identify phonemes and blend them into words. Phonemic awareness is demonstrated through our Pre-Emergent Letter Books, Reading workouts (secret word), Word Books that support segmenting and blending, and our Elkonin Boxes.

**Phonics:** We provide systematic phonics instruction, demonstrating the relationship between letters and sounds through progressive, structured texts. This approach allows students to decode words systematically, building a solid base for reading proficiency. The decodables provide explicit phonics instruction, with 20% of the text focused solely on the specific phonics skill. Just Right Reader tools for teaching phonics include our scope and sequence, Elkonin Boxes, Letter Tiles, and T-Charts.

**Fluency:** Just Right Reader Decodables incorporate repetitive and cumulative texts to enhance reading fluency. This practice helps students read text smoothly and accurately, increasing their ability to understand and enjoy the material, which is crucial for sustained reading sessions. Our program addresses all aspects of fluency: accuracy, speed, and expression, teacher modeling of fluent reading with expression, and small group or partner reading. Our Bingo Cards also help promote reading and re-reading for fluency.

**Vocabulary:** Each Just Right Reader decodable has an appropriate and challenging vocabulary that builds on previous learning. This helps expand students' word knowledge and enhances their ability to grasp more complex texts. Each decodable includes new vocabulary. Our phonics videos also introduce and help students practice new vocabulary.

**Comprehension:** Our program emphasizes comprehension strategies through questions and activities directly connected to the text, teaching students to think critically about what they read and develop a deeper understanding. Just Right Reader materials that teach comprehension include Graphic Organizers, Reading Reviews within Just Right Reader Lesson Plans, and Reading Workouts.

An essential feature of our methodology is orthographic mapping, crucial for helping students transition from decoding words to recognizing them by sight. Orthographic mapping involves the mental process where readers form permanent word retrievals by connecting a word's pronunciation with its written form. Our decodables provide repeated exposure to consistently structured texts, enhancing reading fluency and comprehension.

Just Right Reader Decodables are designed for personalized and small-group instruction settings. They emphasize hands-on, practical learning experiences without needing a digital platform. Our comprehensive approach covers reading and integrates writing, speaking, and listening, supported by formative assessments and ongoing growth monitoring.

## Lesson Plan Structure and Methodology

The Just Right Reader lesson plans are meticulously crafted to align with the Science of Reading, ensuring that each lesson is comprehensive and effective in building foundational reading skills through systematic phonics and explicit instruction. Each Just Right Reader Lesson Plan follows a structured approach to learning that supports the five areas of reading. Students are given opportunities to practice phonics skills, gain meaning from reading comprehension activities, and apply their knowledge using activities like Elkonin Boxes or Reading Bingo.

## Components

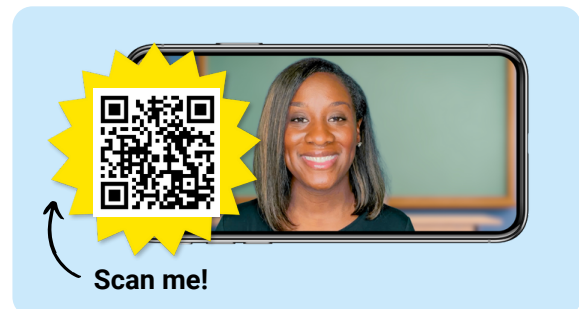
### Program Materials (Print)

- Decodable Books
- Lesson Plans
- Teacher Resources
- Student Activities

### Program Materials (Digital)

**QR Phonics Video Lessons:** Just Right Reader video lessons in English and Spanish are a core element of our decodables. These lessons are fun, engaging, and informative. They help students with explicit instruction to practice skills and sounds in each of our decodable books. These videos build a deeper understanding of how to sound out words, spell, and build comprehension related to the stories they read.

These videos are a crucial part of Just Right Reader English and Spanish Decodables because they take the guesswork out of interpreting the sounds and skills students are learning in each decodable. We've heard from parents who have started to learn how to read from our QR phonics video lessons too! These videos are quick and



easy to understand and explicitly state the skills students and families should focus on during reading. As part of our commitment to customization, we also offer these videos in various other languages, including Hmong, Urdu, Arabic, Mandarin, and Vietnamese.

## **Intentional Design**

According to the Science of Reading, phonemic awareness is pivotal in the early stages of reading development. Just Right Reader, English and Spanish Decodables, are designed to enhance this skill, enabling students to decode words effortlessly. Our books are designed to have text in a large font and the remaining blank space so that students can easily focus on the words. Twenty percent of the words on each page are the focus skill words. The left page of each book spread includes the focus skill words, previously taught skills, and high-frequency words. The right page contains the art to help students gain meaning.

Our early decodables ensure students get alphabetic knowledge from the beginning of their reading journey. As students progress, they advance to phonological awareness, blending, segmenting, and working with high-frequency words. The progression of embedded practice, coupled with the explicit scope and sequence, builds foundational skills in the core areas of reading.

Just Right Reader Letter Books are followed by Word Books, and finally, decodable books to put these words into context. Within the decodable books, explicit instruction encourages students to practice high-frequency words.

Just Right Reader decodables are designed to interleave skill practice, offering students multiple opportunities to encounter each phonics element in an authentic reading context.

Every layer of our design process works to eliminate experience disparities that affect students' access to equitable educational materials. From our authors and illustrators to our team of editors, our decodable books go through rigorous editing stages to ensure equity in literacy. Just Right Reader is committed to creating a reality where students see themselves and their experiences represented in the books they read everyday.

Just Right Reader’s Decodables, student materials, family, and teacher resources support systematic instruction in the five essential reading skills.

**✓ Diversión fonética**

Piensa en una palabra que comience con cada letra de tu nombre. (por ejemplo, Pablo: P - plátano, A - avión, B - blanco, L - luz, O - oruga)

**🔊 Diversión con sonidos**

Juega a Estoy pensando en algo con un compañero.

- El compañero 1 dice: "Estoy pensando en algo que comienza con el sonido F".
- Nombra pistas hasta que el compañero 2 adivine.
- Intercambien los roles.

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**Phonemic Awareness**  
(5 minutes)

---

**1. Use picture cards to show /f/**

**Say:** Hoy estamos escuchando palabras que comienzan con el sonido /f/.  
**(Show:** 3 cards that begin with /f/ and 1 that does not. **Possible pictures:** Foca, fresa, fiesta, pepino, orca)

**Say:** Mira estas fotografías. Algunos comienzan con /f/. Tu trabajo es encontrar la imagen que no comienza con /f/. Diré el nombre de cada imagen y lo repetirás. (Show and say each picture. Students repeat.) ¿Qué imagen no comienza con /f/?

**2. If students do not identify the correct picture, repeat each card**

Say the name of each picture, emphasize the beginning sound, then repeat the name of the picture again. Continue with more pictures, if needed.

Ex: foca, /fff/ foca. ¿Eso comienza con el sonido /f/? ¡Sí!

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**Phonics Review**  
(5 minutes)

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**1. Introduce the letter Ff**

**Say:** Veamos la letra que hace el sonido /f/. (Show the letter Ff card.) Esta es la letra F. Esta es una mayúscula F. Comienza con una línea grande hacia abajo, una línea pequeña arriba, una línea pequeña en el medio. Esta es la letra minúscula f. Curvas hacia arriba y alrededor, una línea grande hacia abajo, una línea pequeña en el medio. F hace el sonido /f/.

**Say:** Di la letra F conmigo mientras señalo la letra. F, f. Ahora digamos su sonido. /f/, /f/.

**Phonics:** Explicit, systematic instruction in new sound-spelling patterns and syllable types; strong lesson-to-text match and highly decodable practice materials; opportunities to practice decoding and encoding using new and previously learned phonics skills (Video phonics lessons, Lesson Plans, Decodable stories, and informational texts).

**✓ Diversión fonética**

Di una palabra de la lista de palabras decodificables del libro. Escribe las letras que escuchas combinadas (p. ej. club, escribe ct).

**? Pregunta de discusión**

¿Por qué crees que el autor escribió este libro?

**🧩 Cognados**

círculo	figuras
cubo	jungla

**ABCD Palabras decodificables**

blanco	jungla
blancos	regla
cable	reglas
globo	tablero
globos	

15

**Vocabulary development:** Explicit introduction of new vocabulary words before students read decodable texts.

Mejora tus destrezas fonéticas  
Busca palabras con

las sílabas trabadas  
bl, gl

Intenta leer estas palabras decodificables. Mira la página 15 para más palabras.

blancos  
globos

Nuevo vocabulario  
cuadrado: figura plana de 4 lados

¡Leamos!  
Escanea el código QR para mirar un divertido video de 2 minutos sobre el libro.

**Reading fluency:** Explicit instruction in blending sounds; explicit introduction of new sound-symbol correspondences; opportunities to practice decoding with support and independently; opportunities for repeated exposure to new and previously learned high-frequency words and sound-spelling patterns; opportunities for repeated reading and wide reading.

**Guided Practice**  
(5 minutes)

1. Hand out copies of the book
2. Introduce the text  
**Say:** Este libro se llama *Un colibrí en tu jardín*. Pongan un dedo sobre la palabra con **br**. (colibrí)
3. Model text reading: Page 1  
**Say:** Hay tres palabras con una sílaba trabada con **br** en esta página. Pongan un dedo sobre una de las palabras. (colibrí, libre, brisa)  
**Say:** Lean la palabra conmigo... 'colibrí', 'libre', 'brisa'.  
**Say:** ¡Lean la página conmigo! 'Este es un jardín de aves. Es un lugar muy grato, lleno de flores, donde un colibrí va a volar libre con la brisa'.

**Reading comprehension:** Teacher-directed reading comprehension activities, scaffolding tools (e.g., high-interest graphic organizers), and opportunities for written response.

**Reading Review**  
(5 minutes)

1. Group discussion  
**Say:** ¿Cómo se sintió Julián antes, durante y después de viajar en avión?
2. Find words in the book that have the stress in the last syllable  
Students find a word and put their finger on it. When everyone has found a word, students share the word they found out loud or with a partner.



## Set Number and Corresponding Book

Each book title falls in a specific set along our phonics progression, and comes with a lesson plan that is unique to that title. This structured approach ensures that the content and skills taught are appropriate for the specific stage of the reader's development.

The image displays two components: a detailed phonics progression chart and a book cover for '¿Dónde están los coches?'. The chart, titled 'Spanish Phonics Progression', is organized into Kindergarten and 1st Grade sections. Kindergarten includes Letter Recognition and Two Syllable Words (Sets 1-5), Two and Three Syllable Words (Sets 6-10), and Blends (Sets 6-10). 1st Grade includes Review: All Letters (Sets 11-15), Review: Digraphs (Sets 16-19), Silent Letter U (Set 20), and Diphthongs (Set 20). The book cover features a QR code, a photo of a woman, and the text '¿Dónde están los coches? Set decodificable: 16 Destreza: Palabras con el digrafo ch'. A circular callout highlights the QR code and the book title.

Kindergarten					
	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5
Letter Recognition and Two Syllable Words	Letter Books	Word books	a, m, n, p, s, l, o VC/V, CV/CV	e, r (hard), d, l, t VC, V/CV, CV/CV, VC/CV	c (hard), u, b, f, g (soft) Introduce closed syllables: VC/V, CVC, V/CVC, CV/CV, CV/CVC, VC/CV, VC/CVC
Two and Three Syllable Words	r (middle), ñ, qu, c (soft), v, j, ß (hard)	h, ch, ll, m, k, z, w, y, x V/CV, CVC, V/CVC, CV/CV, CV/CVC, VC/CV, VC/CVC, CCV & CCVC (digraphs)	Three syllable words	Blends bl, gl	Blends br, gr
Blends					
1st Grade					
	Set 11	Set 12	Set 13	Set 14	Set 15
Review: All Letters	Group 1: Review m, p, s, l	Group 2: Review r (hard), d, n, t	Group 3: Review c (hard), f, b, g (hard and soft)	Group 4: Review r (middle), ñ, qu, c (soft), -j-	Group 5: Review h, k, z, w, y, x
Review: Digraphs	Set 16: Digraphs	Set 17: Silent U	Set 18: Silent U	Set 19: Diphthongs	Set 20: Words with cñ, cñ, ou, ce, ci (combining both sounds of letter U)
Silent Letter U	Review ch, ll, rr	que, qui	que, qui	que, qui	Words with ca, co, cu, que, qui
Diphthongs					
Contrasting Sounds					

## Skill Set and Learning Objectives

Each lesson plan outlines the focus of phonics or reading skills, corresponding to the book's content. Learning objectives are clearly defined to align with these skills, providing targeted learning outcomes for the session. Each lesson plan includes a detailed definition of the key skills to be taught, ensuring that teachers understand the instructional focus and the expected outcomes. This is crucial for delivering content that meets the rigorous standards of the Science of Reading, emphasizing the importance of explicit instruction in phonics and reading comprehension.

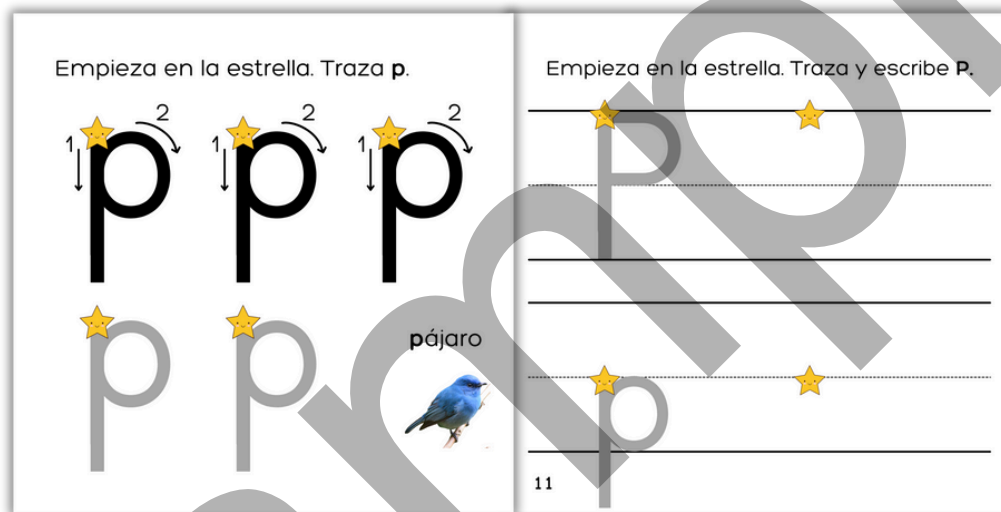
## Structured Activities

- **Phonics Review:** A review of previously taught phonics rules, reinforcing earlier learning and ensuring continuity.
- **Guided Reading Practice:** Teachers lead reading sessions using the decodable book, focusing on modeling and supporting the application of the phonics skills in context.
- **Independent Reading:** Students read independently from the exact decodable text, applying the phonics skills they've learned in a more autonomous setting.
- **Reading Review:** This component helps students make meaning from the text they read by integrating comprehension strategies recommended by the Science of Reading.
- **Writing Application Exercise:** Students engage in writing activities relating to the text, allowing them to creatively use new vocabulary and syntax.

- **Differentiation:** Each lesson plan outlines strategies for differentiating instruction to meet the diverse needs of learners, ensuring that all students can access and engage with the material effectively.
- **Home Connection:** For students using Just Right Reader Take-Home Decodables, this component provides activities and tips for parents to support reading at home, enhancing the learning

### Reading and Writing

Just Right Reader helps move students along the language proficiency progression through tools like our QR code video phonics lessons, speaking using phonics skills, and reading by decoding words. Our Letter Books include dry-erase writing pages that give students practice writing upper and lower case letters. Each book with writing pages also has an accompanying lesson plan that demonstrates and teaches writing skills.



### Rationale Based on the Science of Reading

The Just Right Reader lesson plans are grounded in the principles of the Science of Reading, focusing on explicit phonics instruction and a systematic approach to literacy. This methodology ensures that phonemic awareness, phonics skills, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension are taught in an integrated manner that supports the development of skilled reading. By structuring lessons around decodable texts and clearly defined skill sets, Just Right Reader enables students to make meaningful connections between the phonics skills they learn and their application in real reading contexts.

### **Emergent Bilingual Students and Special Education**

Integrating interactive elements like QR codes for accessing additional materials ensures that resources are readily available to enhance the teaching and learning process. Furthermore, the comprehensive structure of these lesson plans supports educators in delivering high-quality, research-backed instruction that effectively addresses the needs of young readers. Just Right Reader Phonics Videos are a key element to supporting Emergent Bilingual students as they help create a deeper sense of understanding and context, through relevant and engaging support. These videos are also available in other languages such as Hmong, Urdu, Arabic, Mandarin, and Vietnamese.

### **Flexible and Family-Friendly Use**

Our decodables are versatile and can be utilized anytime additional reading support is needed—during school hours instructional time to accelerate learning, small reading groups, intervention, independent reading times, or as a choice activity after work is completed. Easily portable, our decodables also serve as a bridge between school and home, allowing for continual reading practice during breaks and vacations to prevent learning loss.

### **Enhancing Family Engagement and Support**

We understand the crucial role of caregiver involvement in a child's educational journey. To facilitate effective family participation, each book includes a QR code linking to a phonics lesson video, making it more accessible for caregivers to assist their children accurately. The activities at the end of each book are designed to be engaging and supportive, enriching the at-home learning experience.

### **Teacher Resources and Student Engagement**

Just Right Reader comprehensive teacher resources include detailed descriptions of the scope and sequence, alignment with the Science of Reading, and an emphasis on student engagement. The embedded QR code phonics lesson videos keep students engaged and foster a connection between family members and their children's reading activities at home. Additional teacher resources that can be paired with lesson plans to create a structured learning experience include, Prompting Guides, Reading Workouts, Elkonin Boxes, Letter Tiles, and Reading Bingo.

### **Quality and Educational Excellence**

Just Right Reader Decodables enhance students' educational experience within their current grades and prepare them for future academic success. With over 700 titles spanning fictional and informational texts in English and Spanish, Just Right Reader has significantly increased reading scores and literacy rates across numerous U.S. schools and districts. Please see our **Case Studies** in the next section.

# Evidence, Case Studies, References



## **Sequential Scope and Sequence**

Our methodology for designing decodables includes multiple books in the same skill set. Each book is progressive and includes a phonics lesson that supports readers through repetition and reinforcement. Phonics instruction must integrate rigorous, research-driven content to create successful, independent readers. Our decodable books are different, opening emerging readers' neural pathways with structured practice in the context of meaningful reading. This leads to the orthographic mapping that results in confident, independent readers. Just Right Reader Decodables maximize the benefits of teaching with targeted, explicit word attack strategies with sequential, systematic decoding strategies seamlessly built into increasingly complex texts. With more than 700 titles in English and Spanish, teachers and families can differentiate practice for all learners, whether they are ready for CVC words, vowel team combinations, or the most complex words in context, including open and closed syllables.

## **Comprehending Grade-Level Complex Texts**

Just Right Reader's progression, is designed to support students at all reading levels, including emergent and accelerated readers, and meets the learning standards of states and core ELA programs. The primary outcomes we assist with achieving include but are not limited to demonstrating independent reading through our Take-Home Decodables Program and the support of our QR phonics lessons, which support students when reading independently. Through phonics progression, texts become increasingly challenging while incorporating previously learned vocabulary and skills to reinforce college and career readiness.

## **Decodables Grounded in Research**

Research shows that utilizing decodable texts significantly and positively impacts beginning reading skills compared to instruction with non-controlled text such as traditional literature. In addition, studies indicate that children gain self-confidence when given the opportunity to demonstrate success with decodable texts, resulting in an increase in their enjoyment of reading. Therefore, decodable texts are not only engaging and motivating for students, but most importantly they make a significant difference in teaching young children to read. (Sadlier School Professional Development Series, A Research Study on the Effects of Using Decodable Texts with Systematic Phonics Instruction. Blevins, 2019.)

Our decodables provide an authentic, structured learning experience with stories that students relate to and that motivate them to read. With books spanning a rigorous phonics continuum, students can practice skills within a range of difficulty that provides an appropriate challenge. This learning experience provides students with the confidence to excel at reading.

### **Explicit and Systematic Instruction**

Just Right Reader supports teachers through the Science of Reading and targeted teaching combines explicit phonics instruction with active and thought-provoking practice, and develops the automaticity needed to comprehend complex grade-level text. We believe the Science of Reading best represents a structured phonics program because decoding and linguistic comprehension depend on one another. Just Right Reader Lesson Plans support teachers in creating a supplemental reading program students can achieve independently or within small groups. Our explicit English and Spanish Scope and Sequence ensure teachers follow an appropriate progression of systematic instruction. The Just Right Reader Library of Titles offers students ample opportunities for guided repetition and practice.

“When the brain encounters a word repeatedly, it builds neural networks for the spelling, pronunciation, and meaning of the word. Scientists believe a model of this word that includes the information in all these networks will eventually be formed and stored in the brain, referred to as the word form area...It is through explicit phonics instruction that these word form networks are created.” Marilee Sprenger, *Wiring the Brain for Reading: Brain-Based Strategies For Teaching Literacy*, pages 106–107.

Just Right Reader Decodables are unique because they provide students various avenues to develop background knowledge. Our print decodables and engaging phonics videos offer knowledge and mastery in a carefully developed explicit and systematic delivery.

# Case Study: Fulton County Schools



## Summary

During the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, Fulton County Schools transitioned to aligning their literacy instruction with the Science of Reading research.

To better support its 11 elementary turnaround schools, the district purchased Just Right Reader's Science of Reading Classroom Libraries and Take-Home Decodable Packs for every PreK to 5th Grade student, providing a set of 10 decodable books personalized to each student's phonics needs every two to three weeks throughout the school year.

We have an audacious goal of 95% of our students reading at or above grade level...Just Right Reader decodables are key to closing that gap.



**Cliff Jones**  
Chief of Staff,  
Fulton County Schools

Watch Fulton County School's Science of Reading Symposium [here](#).

## Implementation

Beginning in February 2022, Fulton County Schools partnered with Just Right Reader in an effort to close the literacy gap in their 11 turnaround, or lowest performing, schools and propel students towards reading proficiency. Using iReady data, Just Right Reader Take-Home Decodable Packs were purchased and differentiated for every student. Students received a new Take-Home Pack every two to three weeks with a total of 11 packs for every student. The decodable books, as well as easily accessible video phonics lessons, allowed phonics practice to extend from school into homes and strengthened partnerships with families.

In August 2022, Just Right Reader Classroom Libraries were purchased for the 11 turnaround schools. Educators supplemented their phonics instruction with engaging and relatable decodable books. The decodable books gave students an authentic reading experience as they practiced new phonics skill sets.

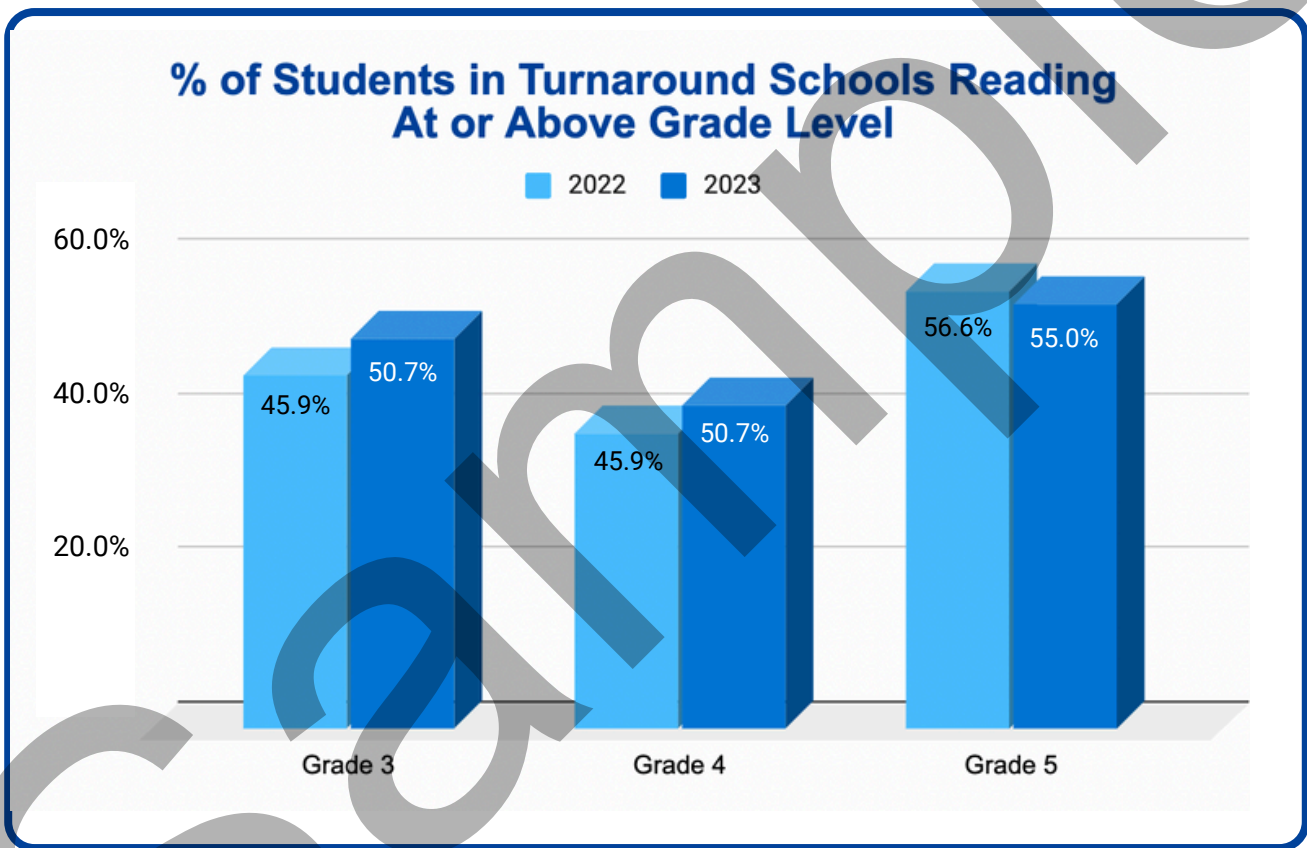


## Key Findings

### Fulton County Schools

- Reduced the number of turnaround schools from 11 to 4 with 49.2% of students in these schools reading at or above grade level.
- Increased the percentage of grade 3-5 students in turnaround schools reading at or above grade level by 2.3%

The following graph depicts the Georgia Milestone Assessment System (GMAS) scores for the 11 turnaround schools using Just Right Reader Science of Reading Decodables.



Learn more about [Just Right Reader Take-Home Decodable Packs](#) here.

# Case Study: Mitchell Elementary, Houston ISD



## Abstract

The vast majority of states have incorporated legislation and instructional practices based on the Science of Reading, research-backed understanding of how students learn to read and the best practices for effective instruction. Just Right Reader Decodables are high-quality instructional materials that align to these principles, providing authentic reading experiences that help students learn to read through explicit instruction. Many research studies have found that students with greater access to books, particularly in their homes, tend to perform better academically, are more motivated to read, and have a positive attitude towards reading. This case study shows providing free reading materials to students to expand their at-home libraries is a powerful method to supplement small-group intervention using high-quality Science of Reading decodables.

## Summary

During the 2023-2024 school year, Mitchell Elementary in Houston, TX, partnered with Just Right Reader to bridge foundational literacy gaps amongst developing readers in 3rd-5th grade.

The school participated in Just Right Reader's Science of Reading Take-Home Pilot, a program providing three rounds of specially curated sets of books using student reading assessment data. Each pack contained ten decodable books mapped to a rigorous phonics progression. Forty students in grades 3-5, identified as reading two or more years below grade level, received personalized packs of decodables to meet their unique phonics needs. Literacy experts emphasize the importance of explicit reading instruction in upper elementary grades as students encounter longer multisyllabic words. At a [Just Right Reader Science of Reading Symposium](#), Dr. Laura Tortorelli, Associate Professor at Michigan State University, highlighted research underscoring the value of phonics and word study instruction in 3rd-5th grade. She shared that 65% of the unique words found in 3rd-grade texts are multisyllabic, thus emphasizing the importance of reinforcing foundational decoding skills and equipping students with strategies to decode multisyllabic words. Additionally, she presented findings suggesting that multisyllabic decoding instruction enhances word recognition, reading fluency, and confidence among students.

The kids were really excited that they had their very own books and packages with their names on them.

**Dr Eliabeth Castillo-Guajardo**  
Principal  
Mitchell Elementary, Houston ISD





The pilot program provided teachers access to high-quality instructional materials for small group intervention that reinforces foundational phonics skills in addition to practice with decoding multisyllabic words. It also provided students with books to take home, enabling them to expand their at-home libraries while continuing practice decoding skills outside of the classroom.

## Implementation

After recognizing the urgent need to add additional high-quality instructional materials to intervention lessons in 3rd-5th grade, Mitchell Elementary's leadership team made the decision to participate in the Just Right Reader Science of Reading Take-Home Pilot Program.

Mitchell Elementary took the following steps to ensure the program was successful:

- The leadership team collaborated with the Just Right Reader Partnerships team for a thorough onboarding meeting around using Just Right Reader Science of Reading Decodables to supplement the core literacy curriculum.
- Students were placed into groups after beginning-of-year assessment data was uploaded to Virtu, a secure and encrypted data portal. Principal Dr. Castillo-Guajardo remarked on the ease of placing students into small groups, thanks to Just Right Reader's algorithm.
- Two interventionist teachers used Just Right Reader decodables **daily** to provide lessons for each small group. Teachers led an explicit phonics lesson that included the Just Right Reader's video lesson accessible by QR code. Students then completed various reading activities corresponding to the decodable and targeted phonics skills.
- After all lessons involving that particular decodable were completed, students took the book home to continue practicing decoding skills with caregivers. Dr. Castillo-Guajardo commented that access to video lessons in English and Spanish was crucial for family engagement.

## Key Findings

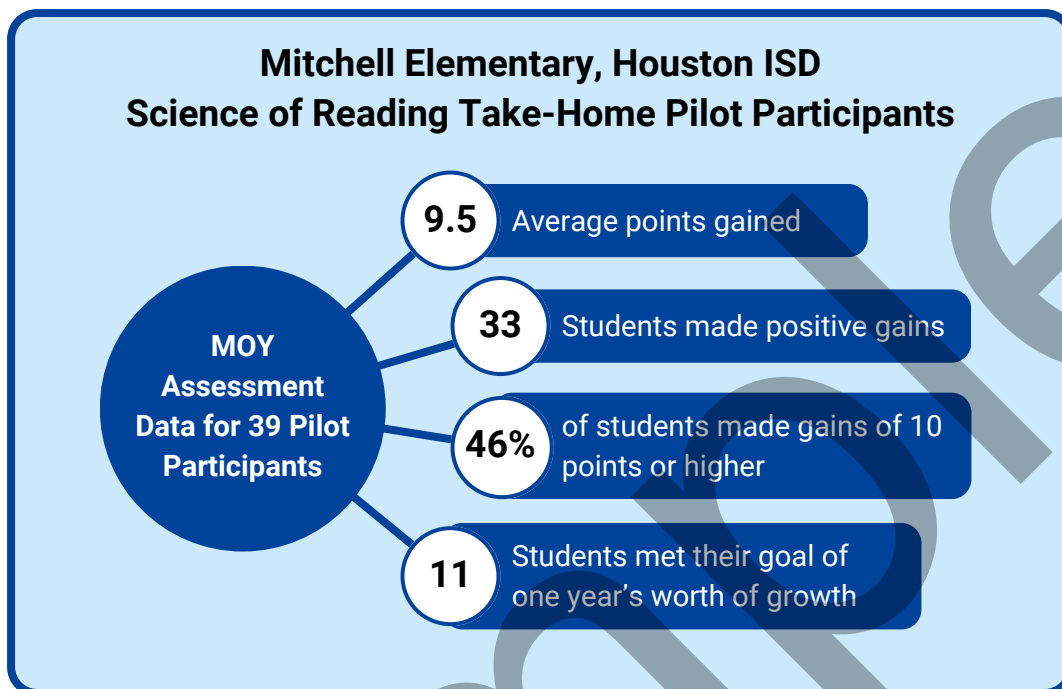
Mitchell Elementary students who participated in the pilot program:

- Demonstrated significant gains in reading skills on their mid-year assessment compared to the beginning-of-year assessment.
- Demonstrated increased confidence and eagerness to participate in small group lessons.
- Expanded their at-home libraries.

“When we first started, several students didn't want to participate in the lessons. They weren't confident. As they began to read and practice more, they became confident and excited to participate.”

**Yolaine Swasey**  
Elementary Interventionist  
Mitchell Elementary, Houston ISD

The data below reflects the middle-of-year reading assessment scores for 39 students using Just Right Reader Science of Reading Decodables. These findings are in comparison to the beginning-of-year assessment data.



## Conclusion

Mitchell Elementary's partnership with Just Right Reader during the Science of Reading Take-Home Pilot proved instrumental in addressing foundational literacy gaps among developing readers in 3rd-5th grade. This partnership resulted in significant improvements in key reading skills, enhanced confidence and motivation levels, and provided both teachers and students with access to high-quality decodables.

## Reference

Dr. Tortorelli, Laura. Associate Professor at Michigan State University  
Symposium on 3 Strategies to Accelerate Reading for 3rd – 5th Grade Developing Readers,  
August 23, 2023.

# Research Basis for Just Right Reader Spanish Decodables

*Phonological awareness transfers in two alphabetic languages*

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