



Correlations for Reading First

Reading First programs must use a scientifically based reading program as the foundation of reading instruction. This program should include activities that address five essential components- phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading comprehension, and fluency. **Journeys into Early Literacy**® software, classroom activities, materials, and literacy progress chart address each of the identified components that are most appropriate for kindergarten students - phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development and reading comprehension. In addition, activities and materials are included in the program that support the development of skills and strategies in receptive language, writing, text awareness, and print awareness. Fluency is not addressed since most young children participating in a Reading First program would not be ready to improve the speed and accuracy of their reading.

Reading First requires that a reading program have a coherent instructional design that "includes explicit instructional strategies, coordinated instructional sequences, ample practice opportunities and aligned student materials."

Journeys into Early Literacy activities are sequenced to maximize student progress, provide specific directions for the teacher, and integrate software activities with classroom activities. This integrated program has been intentionally organized to address key reading skills and concepts needed for young children to become successful readers.

Reading First identifies one of the elements of a high quality reading program as one that uses grouping strategies, such as small groups, that are fluid and based on ongoing assessment results.

Journeys into Early Literacy recommends a variety of grouping strategies including small group, large group, and individual activities that may be teacher directed or completed independently. Decisions regarding grouping should be based on the needs of the children and the most effective methods for teaching the concepts and skills. The literacy progress chart is a tool designed to provide teachers with information on children's strengths and needs. This chart allows teachers to track children's progress and link instruction with reading goals.