



Scholastic *WiggleWorks*

WiggleWorks® is a multimedia, leveled reading and writing program for grades PreK-3. The program combines books and technology to provide students with a range of activities that integrate reading, writing, and language development, including listening and speaking. *WiggleWorks* works for all learners, including struggling readers, English-Language Learners, and students with special needs.

Instructional Content

WiggleWorks software and books provide instruction in the Five Components of Reading—phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Phonemic Awareness

- The Magnet Board with text-to-speech function allows students to break word into their component sounds and work with phonemes, including segmenting and blending.
- The Read Aloud, Write, and My Book areas of the software encourage students to use their knowledge of letters and sounds to monitor their reading by recording themselves.
- The Teaching Plans allow the teacher to provide small-group instruction that integrates letter-sound correspondence with spoken language activities, such as rhyming syllabication, or manipulating onsets and rimes.

Phonics

- The Teaching Plans teach phonics skills explicitly, first in isolation and then in connected text.
- The Magnet Board, with text-to-speech features, can be used to introduce a letter or sound, learn blends, or read whole words.
- The Read Aloud and Read activity areas provide opportunities for children to decode words in context.

Fluency

- The *WiggleWorks* books are leveled using the Guided Reading Leveling system. Level correlations to DRA and the Lexile® Framework for Reading are also included.
- Children hear fluent reading modeled by an expert narrator. They can also record themselves reading a book and play these recordings to check their own progress.
- The *WiggleWorks* Manager maintains a record of what books children have read, how long they spent on each activity, and a portfolio of their work to help teachers gauge children's progress.

Vocabulary

- *WiggleWorks* Teaching Plans have a preview section to build language and background and a vocabulary section that teaches content-related vocabulary, including vocabulary strategies.
- Vocabulary instruction is offered in the Teaching Plans to introduce Story Words, in the writing activities, and on the software where the Story Words list highlights the new vocabulary words.
- The My Words list can be printed to make flash cards for vocabulary practice.
- Students can alter the story in My Book, and teachers can print it for students to take home and share.

Comprehension

- The *WiggleWorks* Teaching Plans include instruction and oral practice in skills such as determining the main idea, summarizing, predicting, and inferential and literal comprehension.
- The software reinforces taught skills by providing opportunities to write in response to the text or to respond to a specific recorded prompt from the teacher.
- Multiple genres, including nonfiction texts, are explored in the Teaching Plans which provide discussion for before, during, and after reading the text.

Instructional Design

The *WiggleWorks* program's three main components—leveled books, interactive software, and teachers' materials—create a practical reading instruction program that has been proven effective at raising reading achievement (Schultz, 1995.) It combines today's best thinking about how children learn to read and write with the power of software to create an innovative model for instruction—a model designed to support young learners in their reading, writing, listening, and speaking development.

WiggleWorks includes the following key components to move every child toward reading proficiency:

- Carefully leveled trade book library
- Complete teaching plans for each leveled book
- Engaging software including an interactive version of each book plus associated activities
- Classroom management tools to individualize instruction
- Assessment materials to monitor students' progress
- Staff development resources to assist teachers in implementing *WiggleWorks* in their classroom

WiggleWorks is designed to support students' language development by providing them with a wide range of activities that integrate reading and writing skills while being suited to a variety of learning styles. It is an effective beginning literacy program for *all* students, including children who are just learning to read, struggling readers, children with special needs, and English language learners. Teachers can customize the software and the instruction to each student's individual needs, thus encouraging all their students to become independent readers and writers.

Assessments

WiggleWorks assessment options make it easy to observe, monitor, and support students as they move toward fluency. Every assessment tool in *WiggleWorks* is dedicated to helping teachers find out what children know about literacy and build on it. Teachers who develop student portfolios and other authentic assessments will find strong support for gathering and using informal observations in the Teaching Plans and *WiggleWorks* software.

WiggleWorks provides these assessment options:

- Reading Level Correlations—The *WiggleWorks* books have been leveled using the Guided Reading Leveling system. In addition, each book is correlated to DRA and printed on the Teaching Plans.
- Reading Records—Teachers can use the Reading Records procedure provided in the Teacher's Guide as a diagnostic measure to monitor reading progress.
- Phonics Assessment—The Nonsense Word Test, provided in the Teacher's Guide, assesses children's decoding abilities without allowing their sight-word knowledge to interfere. This allows teachers to determine which decoding skills children need to learn and guide them to the correct instructional materials and books.
- Oral Reading Fluency—Teachers can take a one-minute, timed sampling of oral reading of a passage at the student's reading level to determine a child's oral reading rate. Oral Reading Fluency Norms for the Hasbrouck & Tindal and DIBELS to assist teachers in analyzing scores and making instructional decision.
- Vocabulary Builder Routine—Teachers can use the Vocabulary Builder activity as a tool to preview vocabulary within a book or to informally assess vocabulary development.
- Oral Retelling Rubric—The Oral Retelling Rubric provides specific criteria to guide teachers in assessing students' comprehension levels.
- Writing Rubric—Writing skills ability can be evaluated using the *WiggleWorks* books in print and on the computer. The Writing Rubric provides specific criteria to guide teachers in assessing students' writing skills.

Motivation and Engagement

With *WiggleWorks*, children are captivated and motivated by the partnering of books and technology. They are engaged through multiple opportunities for listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

- The *Read Aloud* area, for example, offers children many of the same benefits as listening to a Big Book. Children can use the pictures to decipher text meaning, as well as track the print as it is read.
- In the *Read Aloud* area, children can record their own voices and then listen to themselves reading the book. This activity motivates fluent reading by encouraging children to read with expression and appropriate pacing.
- *WiggleWorks* Books are leveled by the Guided Reading Leveling System. Each successive level presents “just the right amount” of additional challenge to ensure that children stay motivated and continue to grow in their reading skills and confidence.
- Students can use the technology scaffolding to support themselves while reading, including reinforcing letter-sound associations by clicking on challenging words to have them read aloud. Such scaffolding helps students to experience success and enjoyment while reading each book independently.
- Music, sound effects, and engaging illustrations help pique the interests of young children in the text. Each word or line highlights as it is read, encouraging children to focus on the print and meaning.
- With *WiggleWorks*, children have choice and control over their learning experience. They can rewrite the stories and modify the illustrations, or write and illustrate their own stories. In addition, students can explore the phonetic patterns and structures of words on the software’s *Magnet Board*.

Differentiated Instructional Strategies

WiggleWorks is designed to support the needs of all young learners. The program provides specific features to meet the needs of struggling readers, students with special needs, and English-Language learners.

Strategies for English-Language Learners

WiggleWorks supports readers whose first language is not English. The clickable text lets ELL students hear a model of fluent reading and listen to individual words repeatedly. The recording feature enables children to practice reading aloud, critique their own reading, and rerecord until they are satisfied with their performance. Teachers can also record “Teacher Messages” to give students additional support. Teaching Plan cards provide best practices suggestions on supporting ELL students as they read *WiggleWorks* books.

English-Language learners develop reading, writing, and language skills. Carefully-leveled books, software, audio CDs, and teaching materials help ELL students build fluency. The Spanish literature collection features books by Latino authors such as Alma Flor Ada, Ximena de la Piedra, and Margarita Gonzales-Jensen. The *WiggleWorks* software includes 24 interactive Spanish-Language books.

Using *WiggleWorks*, English-Language learners can:

- Hear stories and some unfamiliar words read aloud repeatedly—proven to be an effective strategy for building vocabulary
- Generate individual word lists
- See text highlighted word-by-word or line-by-line, increasing print awareness
- Use story starters to write a response to a book

Strategies for Special Education students

WiggleWorks was created in consultation with the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST). CAST specializes in designing an interactive print and software curriculum that use the principles of universal design—alternative representations of information, multiple options for expression and control, and multiple options for engagement—to provide a flexible and customizable reading environment for all children.

WiggleWorks includes important features, such as:

- Instructional options, such as reading, writing, and bookmarking
- Customizable presentation options, such as background color, sound, and graphics
- Read-aloud options, including word-by-word or line-by-line
- Customizable settings to support different disabilities and learning styles

Additionally, the management system provides alternative tools for children who require them. For example:

- Talking buttons, which say their functions aloud when the mouse is held over them, help children with visual impairments
- Talk and Type option reads what children type
- Custom color options allows the teacher to choose the colors of text, background, and highlighting for individual children or the entire class

Finally, *WiggleWorks* is compatible with current assistive technology input devices and accessibility options within current operating systems.

Home-School Connection

By bringing home *WiggleWorks* materials and their own work, children keep their parents informed about how they are using technology to improve their reading and writing skills. These include:

- Family letters, available in English and Spanish, that can be used introduce the program and provide suggestions for supporting effective reading strategies at home
- Printouts of a student's own stories, word lists related to the books read, and other work
- Trade books that parents can read to their children to support instruction
- Books that students create with the *WiggleWorks* software in the "Home Connection" part of each lesson

The *WiggleWorks* software's record-keeping features enable teachers to gauge student progress. Teachers share this information, along with a description of how students use the program's technology, during parent/teacher meetings.

Professional Development

The *WiggleWorks* half-day implementation training helps teachers successfully implement the program and engage students in daily reading and writing practice. Teachers will:

- Review the program organization and research-based teaching materials
- Create an implementation plan to support reading and writing instruction
- Individualize instruction and monitor student progress with reports
- Review resources for communicating with families

 For additional information about *WiggleWorks*, visit www.scholastic.com/wiggleworks.