



Effective Reading Programmes for Pupils with English as an Additional Language

Educator's Summary

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Best Evidence Encyclopaedia
Empowering educators with evidence

Ensuring that pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) receive the most suitable reading instruction is key to their academic success, but teachers need to know what programmes are effective.





This review summarises research on reading programmes for EAL pupils. We looked at *all* available evidence on programmes designed to help EAL pupils aged 5-11, in order to establish what we know works. We examined all studies of relevant reading programmes from all countries, as long as a report was available in English.* (NB Most studies took place in the US). We were then able to assess and compare the effectiveness of these programmes. Descriptions and ratings for all the programmes are listed further down this summary.

The results of the review show that in terms of beginning reading programmes for EAL pupils, the research supported structured, phonetic programmes which emphasise language development in both native-language and English instruction. Programmes which use co-operative learning, vocabulary instruction, and literature were particularly effective for EAL pupils of upper primary-age.

The full report (which this review summarises) is available at www.bestevidence.org.uk

Programme Ratings

Listed below are currently available programmes, grouped by type and by strength of effectiveness. Within each group, programmes available in the UK are listed first, and then the remainder in alphabetical order.



Key to Programme Ratings	
	Strong Evidence of Effectiveness: At least one large or two small randomised studies with median ES= +0.20 or more.
	Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness: At least two large or four small studies (randomised and matched) with median ES= +0.20 or more.
	Limited Evidence of Effectiveness: At least one qualifying study with median ES=+0.10 or more.
	No Impact: Studies show no significant differences
N	No Qualifying Studies: No studies met inclusion standards

Strong Evidence of Effectiveness




None




Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness (Beginning Reading Programmes)

Rating	Programme	Type	Description	Contact / Website
	Success for All: Bilingual and English		Comprehensive school reform model for pupils aged 5-14. Emphasizes co-operative learning, phonics, frequent assessment, tutoring, and parental involvement. Versions available for English language development, transitional bilingual education, and two-way bilingual.	UK website: www.successforall.org.uk
	Small-group tutoring using Direct Instruction-English		Programme for struggling pupils aged 5-9, using Direct Instruction materials (see below).	US website: www.nifdi.org US contact: kengel@nifdi.org

Limited Evidence of Effectiveness (Beginning Reading Programmes)





Rating	Programme	Type	Description	Contact / Website
	Reading Recovery		One-to-one tutoring programme for struggling pupils aged 6/7. Available in English or Spanish.	UK website: www.ioe.ac.uk
	Direct Instruction-English		Structured, phonetic programme in English for pupils aged 5-12.	US website: www.nifdi.org US contact: kengel@nifdi.org
	Libros-Spanish		Home and school reading intervention in Spanish for children aged 5/6 emphasizing books sent home to be read to children by parents.	US contact: Claude Goldenberg, cgolden@csulb.edu

Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness (Upper Primary Reading Programmes)

Rating	Programme	Type	Description	Contact / Website
	Tutoring using Read Well-English		One-to-one tutoring in English for struggling pupils aged 7-11, which uses a structured, phonetic programme.	store.cambiumlearning.com/ProgramPage.aspx?parentID=019005451



Limited Evidence of Effectiveness (Upper Primary Reading Programmes)

Rating	Programme	Type	Description	Contact / Website
	Bilingual Cooperative Integrated Reading and Composition (BCIRC)- Spanish-English transition		Co-operative learning, oral, reading, and writing programme designed to help children aged 7-11 progress to English instruction.	UK website: www.successforall.org.uk
	Success for All Transition		Adaptation of Success for All (see above) to help children aged 7-11 move to English instruction.	UK website: www.successforall.org.uk
	Opportunities Through Language Arts (OLA)-Saunders & Goldenberg		Programme emphasizing literature study, writing, skill building and independent reading to help children aged 7-11 move to English instruction.	Bill.Saunders@PearsonAchievement.com
	Vocabulary intervention-Carlo et al.		Vocabulary teaching programme to help Spanish-speaking pupils aged 9-11 improve their English vocabulary.	US contact: Maria Carlo, carlo@miami.edu

Other Ratings

N No Qualifying Studies

UK programmes lacking qualifying studies:

Learning Design www.learningdesign.biz

Realbooks www.realbooks.co.uk

Review Methods

A search of published and unpublished articles focused on those that met the following criteria:

- The studies involved primary school-age children identified as having English as an additional language.
- Schools or classrooms using each programme had to be compared to randomly assigned or well-matched control groups.
- Study duration had to be at least 12 weeks.
- The language of instruction was the same in experimental and control classes.



- Outcome measures had to be reliable and valid assessments of the reading skills being taught in all classes.
- The review placed particular emphasis on studies in which schools, teachers, or pupils were assigned at random to experimental or control groups.

Programmes were rated according to the overall strength of the evidence supporting their effects on reading achievement. Effect size (ES) is the proportion of a standard deviation by which a treatment group exceeds a control group. Large studies are those involving a total of at least 10 classes or 250 students.

The Full Report

- For the full report, which this review summarises, see Cheung, A., and Slavin, R. E. (2005) *Bilingual Research Journal*, volume 29, no. 2, pp. 241-267. The full report is available at www.bestevidence.org.uk.

