



Start-to-Finish[®] Literacy Starters Curriculum

*Beginning literacy curriculum for students
who will take the alternate assessment*



Start-to-Finish® Literacy Starters Curriculum

**Specifically for students
grades 4-12 with complex
instructional needs**



We believe that students with complex needs should be on a path to reading, and this curriculum is the first step on that path—helping teachers build core literacy skills for the alternate assessment. The curriculum is driven by picture-supported books that are age-appropriate for students in grades 4-12. They cover topics in science, social studies and life skills while step-by-step lesson plans map to each book section. In addition, early phonics lessons help students build transferrable decoding skills.

Together, the books, supporting lesson plans, and phonic lessons build a reading foundation that will surpass all expectations!

Teacher's love it because:

- **Class prep time is quick and easy**
- **Lessons and books are age-appropriate**
- **Students can feel successful right away—so they are engaged and motivated**

How does it work?

Start-to-Finish Literacy Starters Curriculum was designed around a three-step framework that builds and integrates multiple skills and processes over time. This design was based on the work of Tierney and Cunningham (1984) and modified by Dr. Karen Erickson. It guides students with moderate to more severe cognitive, communication, and/or physical disabilities to learn emergent reading skills through explicit strategy instruction known as Anchor, Read, and Apply. Repetition is important for this student population, so the strategy instruction is repeated several times across each book. This process builds solid emergent reading habits.

Each book is supported by multiple comprehension lessons that follow a consistent format across lessons. Practice and repetition builds skills that enhance students' cognitive engagement with age-appropriate reading.



Literacy Starters Curriculum was designed with the research expertise of Dr. Karen Erickson (Center for Literacy and Disability Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill). Dr. Erickson is a special education advisory group member for the Dynamic Learning Maps alternate assessment consortium.

Comprehension Lesson

The whole lesson focuses on how to complete the reading tasks successfully

Literacy Starters Curriculum includes step-by-step lessons tied to each of the 15 Literacy Starters books. Teachers deliver effective reading strategies through a repeatable model. Each lesson follows the following process:

Out of Here
Planets—Science & Surroundings
Lesson 3: Focus: Beginning, Middle, and End

Anchor:

Activate Background Knowledge:

1. Many of the things we do have a certain order, such as shop for food, cook the food, eat it!
2. Tell the students, "Stories have an order too. The author needs to have a beginning, middle and a good ending."

Purpose Statement:
Read to find the beginning, middle and the ending of this story.

Read:
Stop no more than once to remind students that they are reading to find the beginning, middle and the ending of this story.

Apply:

After Reading Task:
Record the students' answers to the beginning, middle and end.

Beginning: The teenager wants to leave the house.
Middle: The teenager thinks about different planets to go to.
End: The teenage goes to Jen's house.

Follow-up and Feedback:
Return to the text to confirm students' answers.

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- 1) **Anchor:** Activate Background Knowledge
Activate and/or build background knowledge related to strategic purpose(s) for reading. Although students frequently have adequate background knowledge required to understand a text, they don't always know when or how to call it up during reading.
- 2) **Read:** Purpose Statement
One single, clear purpose for reading is set before shared reading. Students participate by either reading independently with computer support, together on the interactive whiteboard, or listening to the book being read aloud by the teacher.
- 3) **Apply:** After Reading Comprehension Task
Students demonstrate comprehension and repair any misunderstandings from the reading.

Phonics Lesson

Lesson 15

Step 1 Name letters and their common sounds
Before beginning to make words, have the students hold up each letter, name it, and say its common sound. Have the students show both the lowercase and capital letters.

Step 2 Make Words
Have the students make these words, then send one student to make each word using the big letters. DO NOT wait for everyone to make the word before sending someone up. Keep the lesson fast-paced and the students will pay better attention. When the word is made with the big letters, ask everyone to check their words and fix them if necessary.

1. Take 2 letters and spell the word **is**.
It is always nice to see you.
2. Take away the letter **s** and get a different letter to make **in**.
We like to have fun in the afternoon.
3. Add a new letter to spell the word **pin**.
He had a smiley face pin.
4. Now take away **n** and add a different letter to make a new word, **pig**.
The pig liked being in the mud.
5. Take away the **p** and add a different letter to spell **dig**.
We got to dig a big hole.
6. Next, add one letter to make the word **digs**.
The dog digs up everything.
7. Take away the **d** and add a different letter to spell the word **pigs**.
The pen was full of pigs.

Letters
d
i
g
n
p
s

Words
is
in
pin
pig
dig
digs
pigs
pins

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First Phonics Lessons: How do you help students with complex instructional needs build foundational reading skills? *Repetition and a proven model.* Here are 50 beginning phonics lessons with the repetition and the mini-steps needed to build emergent skills. Lessons are based on Dr. Patricia Cunningham's time-proven approach to building decoding and spelling strategies featured in her highly-regarded book *Systematic Sequential Phonics They Use* (Carson-Dellosa).

Pacing is optimized for students with complex instructional needs

Have your teachers try a lesson—it only takes a few minutes of prep time! Download at donjohnston.com/literacy-starters-curriculum

Assessment

The Intervention Planning Tool guides teachers and tracks each student's progress in the following skills areas: **Concepts About Print**, **Alphabetic Principle**, **Oral Language**, and **Phonological Awareness**.

Understanding each student's Reading Profile helps teachers use this curriculum successfully.

Literacy Starters Curriculum Includes:

- 5 sets of Literacy Starters (15 paperback books and accessible computer books included)
- 43 book-specific comprehension lessons
- 50 phonics lessons with teacher directions
- Reproducible worksheets
- Karen Erickson's Training Workshop video (on CD)
- Literacy Starters Teacher Guides

Learn more online and request a quote at donjohnston.com/literacy-starters-curriculum

Keep students engaged by expanding your library with the complete set of Literacy Starters paperback books

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Item Code	Price
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