

Start-to-Finish®

Literacy Starters Curriculum

Beginning literacy curriculum for students who will take the alternate assessment



Start-to-Finish® Literacy Starters Curriculum



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.

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

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

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.

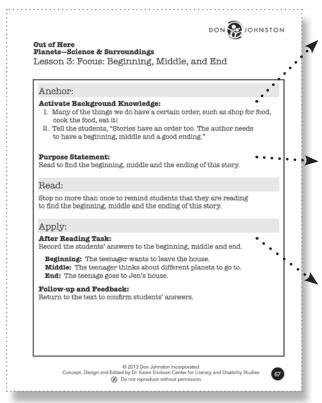


Literacy Starters Curriculum was designed with the research expertise of Dr. Karen Erickson (Center for Literacy and Disability Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill). Dr. Erickson is a special education advisory group member for the Dynamic Learning Maps alternate assessment consortium.

Comprehension Lesson

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:

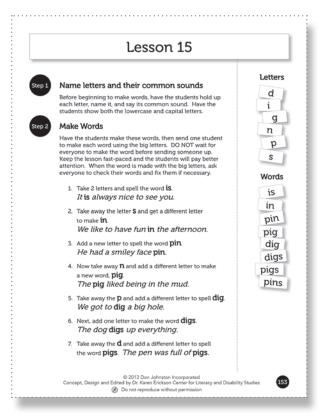
The whole lesson focuses on how to complete the reading tasks successfully



- 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



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).

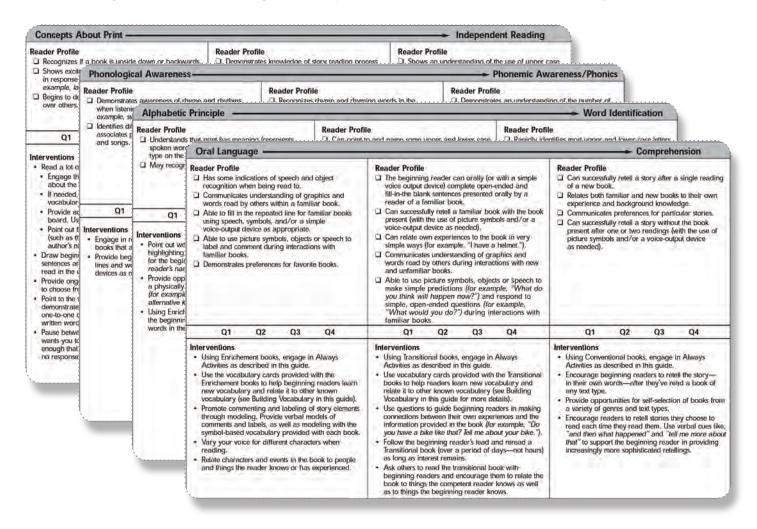
Pacing is optimized for students with complex instructional needs

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

Start-to-Finish Literacy Starters Curriculum	
Item Code	Price
LS100	\$499

See software requirements at donjohnston.com/software

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