



Results

*District: Prince George's County
Program: Reading Together Grade Two™
Model: Cross-age, fourth, fifth, sixth grade tutors
Implementation: Afterschool, in school
Target students: ESOL*

Read what ESOL/Language Minority Program Supervisor Supreet Anand says about...

Targeting subgroups

We have been using Reading Together™ for three years to mainly target second- and fifth-grade ESOL students. In Prince George's County, we currently have 14 elementary schools using Reading Together™; all but one implement the program after school.

We use Reading Together™ because it is a cost-effective way to improve reading comprehension skills for our ESOL students. The materials are attractive and easy to use, the activities are enjoyable for the students, and training and support is available for the program coordinators.

Getting results

This year we are using SRI reading scores from September and June, along with fall and spring IPT reading scores (a measure of English reading proficiency), to obtain quantitative measurements of the participants' gains in reading. We will have the quantitative data at the end of this year. Coordinators in previous years have reported that ESOL students in the program improved both their reading and their oral English skills.

Qualitative results are based on anecdotal responses from the program coordinators at each school and include students' increased interest in reading, improved ability to discuss story content, and increased appropriate behavior both during the program and in other school settings. A number of our coordinators have reported overall classroom improvement as well as improved test scores.



When the fifth graders are given the task of teaching the second graders, they not only improve their own reading skills, but they also develop an increased sense of responsibility and improve their oral communication skills as well.

Reaching more ESOL students

Read what Supreet says about...

Meeting campus needs

We are basically using the program as intended, as a cross-age tutoring program designed to improve the reading comprehension skills of below-grade-level second- and fifth-grade readers. Individual schools have made adaptations to fit their scheduling needs: some programs train their tutors and then hold a tutoring session immediately afterwards; other schools train the tutors one day and hold the tutoring sessions the next day; schools do either one or two complete lessons each week. Although the target groups are second- and fifth-grade ESOL students, schools have the option of recruiting former or non-ESOL students if necessary to complete their groups.

Reaching more students

The major benefit for us is that Reading Together™ involves tutoring of younger students by older students. We find that the fifth-grade tutors improve as much as the second graders, so we are able to target two age groups with one program.

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Program support

Reading Together™ personnel, including sales people, customer service representatives and our Educational Consultant, have been consistently accessible, helpful and supportive. The company has provided everything needed to run our programs successfully.