Comprehensive English Language Arts Curriculum for Grades K–2
The Superkids Reading Program captivates students from the start with tales of the Superkids. These relatable characters and their ongoing adventures provide an engaging and cohesive framework for literacy success.

Superkids is a comprehensive English language arts curriculum crafted for grades K–2 using evidence-based literacy practices and supported by a dedicated literacy team. This proven-effective program follows a unique, systematic, and explicit instructional path through engaging, increasingly complex text.

Growing and learning with the Superkids by their side, students develop the K–2 literacy skills they need to be successful in grade 3 and beyond.

Superkids provides the plan to achieve it!

- **BUILD SUCCESS** by implementing our proven-effective strategies and partnering with our dedicated literacy team.
- **INSPIRE STUDENTS** through joyful, successful reading experiences with engaging texts and relatable characters who grow and learn by your students’ side.
- **EXTEND LEARNING** from the start of grade K with a solid skills foundation that builds confidence and accelerates growth.

Every Student a Successful Reader by Grade 3

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Evidence-Based, Research-Proven, and Successful in Classrooms Like Yours

Success in beginning reading—learning how to turn print into meaning—is key to reading success in later years. Research shows that students who do not learn to read by the end of grade 2 will likely struggle with reading throughout their lives (Vaughn & Linan-Thompson, 2003).¹

Get it right—right from the beginning…
To prevent students from ever falling behind and greatly reduce the need for intervention, Superkids provides an effective primary-grades curriculum for teaching the fundamentals of reading and writing. Getting it right the first time with evidence-based instruction is critical.

...By building the reading brain
Primary students must be taught to read—and how they’re taught matters. Superkids puts brain research into practice to explicitly and systematically develop the parts of the brain that are used for efficient and effective reading. Efficacy research proves that this approach works.

STUDY: Effective with all subgroups
In a nationwide study of 3,200 demographically diverse kindergarteners, Superkids students gained 25 percentile points on average. Superkids leaves nothing to chance and affords all students high-quality, proven-effective instruction.

CASE STUDIES: Flourishing in schools and districts
Schools and districts across the U.S. are creating success with Superkids.

STUDY: Effective over time
A longitudinal study in the Nesbitt Spring School District in Langhorne, PA, demonstrates the positive impact of Superkids on students’ accuracy and fluency with connected text.

Visit zaner-bloser.com for effectiveness studies and current case studies.

Partners in Literacy Professional Development

One hallmark of any successful implementation is collaborative, classroom-focused, ongoing professional development. Our services are designed to hone your understanding of Superkids and to build best practices in literacy instruction.

Working together in a true partnership, we’ll design a plan for sustained, job-embedded training that is fulfilling, enjoyable, and impacts your knowledge and practice.

PD for the extended team
In addition to expert teacher training, administrators count on us for effective, transformative professional development to support their investment in Superkids within the wider school community. We provide services and resources for your whole team.

- Teachers
- Administrators
- Paraprofessionals and support staff
- Parents

“Part of our success is the ongoing, strong professional development which Superkids absolutely provides.”
— Jennifer Barrow, Principal Florida

Start off strong with implementation services
Our training and coaching implementation services ensure you begin on the right foot, with confidence, and maximize Superkids to its fullest potential. Typically delivered on-site, these services can also be delivered remotely.

Implementation Training
Teachers and support personnel leave prepared to successfully implement Superkids and use all program materials.

Coaching Visits
Superkids coaches provide teachers one-on-one support and share their content and practice expertise.

Administrator Training
Administrators are equipped with an understanding of the research basis of the program and best classroom practices.

Hone your craft with standards-based seminars
Literacy Best Practices Seminars are designed to deepen educators’ knowledge of essential early literacy topics and can be tailored to meet your school’s or district’s needs. Choose from seminar topics within four categories.

1. Foundational Skills
2. Comprehension
3. Writing
4. Differentiated Instruction

Keep growing as you teach the program
Deepen your knowledge of the Superkids approach with online support resources available on demand when you need them.
Make Memorable Connections with the Superkids

The Superkids are a lively cast of 14 relatable characters, whose adventures and activities will keep your students motivated and engaged throughout the program.

Meet the Superkids

In the first semester of kindergarten, students are introduced to the Superkids one unit at a time through animated songs. The characters, who begin as mnemonic devices to learn new letter-sounds, have unique personalities, special talents, and diverse interests. They quickly become good friends your students will keep throughout first grade, as the Superkids experience fun adventures around their community, and second grade, when the Superkids all wind up in the same classroom with Ms. Blossom as their teacher.

Students delight in the characters’ charm

Students first get to know each Superkid’s charismatic traits in animated songs. The individuality of the Superkids draws students to one or more characters. Whether they relate to Sal’s love of sports or Oswald’s odd animals, these lasting bonds serve to connect each student to the program for greater success.

Spotlight on Sal

Sal speaks both English and Spanish. He likes every sport, and he likes every game!

“...When children feel they belong and find their realities reflected in the curriculum, research has demonstrated that they are more engaged in learning and that they experience greater school success.”

—Hunsberger, 2007

Seven girls, six boys, & one super dog

Connections to key life lessons

The Superkids characters model appropriate behavior and spark discussion about how to treat one another, contribute, and act as good citizens of our classrooms and communities.

Lasting Lessons in the Teacher’s Guides include comprehension questions and activities. Students think critically about lesson stories and connect these character development lessons to their own experiences.

Joyful reading experiences from day one

Motivated learning depends on interest and success. From the very beginning, students experience both with Superkids. The program builds success step by step, and students consistently experience the joy and achievement of really reading—not guessing. This gives students confidence and keeps them motivated as rigor increases.

“Motivated reading behavior is characterized by students valuing and engaging in the act of reading with expectations of success and with greater persistence and stamina when encountering difficulty; as such, motivation is directly tied to personal interest and self-efficacy as well as achievement.”

—Duke, Pearson, Strachan, & Billman, 20113

Ensure Success with a Unique and Effective Instructional Path

The program’s carefully designed, systematic, and explicit literacy instruction progresses through increasingly complex text, building the essential foundation for efficient, fluent reading and effective comprehension.

**Foundational Skills**
- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics
- Blending
- Decoding
- Structural analysis
- Fluency

**Language Skills**
- Handwriting
- Encoding
- Spelling
- Grammar
- Vocabulary

**Reading Skills**
- Listening comprehension
- Reading comprehension: literary and informational text
- Close reading
- Content knowledge
- Vocabulary

**Writing Skills**
- Writing process
- Narrative writing
- Opinion writing
- Informative/explanatory writing
- Grammar, usage, and mechanics
- Speaking and listening

**Speaking & Listening Skills**
- Oral language
- Collaborative discussion

**Reading**
Students read authentic literary and informational texts that have not been controlled for decodability and apply comprehension skills to longer, more complex texts.

**Writing**
Students use the writing process to write narratives, informational texts, and opinion pieces.

**Word Work**
Lesson plans incorporate all of the language arts throughout three consistent parts—Word Work, Reading, and Writing—by overlapping and integrating skills.

**First Grade**
- Students master more complex phonetic elements and learn to decode and encode structural patterns.
- Students learn the letters of the alphabet, one sound for each letter, and then apply their new skills to blend letter-sounds to read and write words and sentences.
- Reading focuses on developing strong blending, decoding, and fluency skills while building comprehension. Read-alouds build background knowledge and listening comprehension.

**Second Grade**
- Students consolidate their understanding of all phonetic elements and apply it in fluent reading of grade-level text.
- Students read authentic literary and informational texts that have not been controlled for decodability and apply comprehension skills to longer, more complex texts.
- Students’ comprehension and fluency skills increase greatly as they read longer and more complex literary and informational texts. Read-alouds build vocabulary and prepare students to read more rigorous text.

**Kindergarten**
- Students learn basic mechanics and aspects of the writing process. Instruction progresses from drawing to writing in each major text type.
- Students consolidate their understanding of all phonetic elements and apply it in fluent reading of grade-level text.
- Students read authentic literary and informational texts that have not been controlled for decodability and apply comprehension skills to longer, more complex texts.
Build Foundational Skills in Kindergarten

In kindergarten, students learn the letters of the alphabet, one sound for each letter, and how to blend letter-sounds to decode and encode words. Explicit, systematic Word Work instruction carefully integrates foundational oral language, handwriting, spelling, vocabulary, and grammar skills to support a holistic understanding of language.

LESSON 1
Phonemic Awareness and Phonics: /s//

Summary of Core Instruction
- Daily Routines: Informal Assessment
- Step 1: Introduce Sal and the Student Book
- Step 2: Teach vocabulary and phonemic awareness
- Step 3: Teach phonics: Initial /s/
- Materials: Superkids Chart and Clings, Student Book for Unit 6 (S), “Sal’s Song” on the teacher portal, Alphabet Card S, Student White Board or handwriting paper

Student Objectives
- Phonemic Awareness
  - For a word and ask children to say each sound in the word separately.
  - Identify initial and final /s/.
- Vocabulary
  - Associate picture names with initial /s/.
- Phonics
  - Associate S with /s/.
- Handwriting
  - Blend the letter-sounds with children before they practice handwriting.

UNIT 6 (S) • LESSON 1
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DAILY ROUTINES: Informal Assessment

Phonemic Awareness
- For a word and ask children to say each sound in the word separately.
- Identify initial and final /s/.

UNIT 6 (S) • LESSON 1
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Defined sequence of instruction
Each letter-sound is introduced with a familiar routine, “hear it, see it, say it, write it,” throughout a unit. Students immediately practice new letter-sounds in text that is perfectly matched to the sequence of instruction.

Hear It
Students identify the target phoneme in spoken language.

Play “Sal’s Song” recording or animation. Tell children to listen closely to “Sal’s Song” to find out more about him. When the song is over, discuss what Sal likes to do. (play sports and games such as sledding, surfing, swimming, skateboarding, stickball)

See It
Students identify the uppercase and lowercase form of the letter.

Identify uppercase and lowercase Ss. Have children find the two letters at the bottom of page 1. Tell them the big letter is uppercase S and the smaller letter is lowercase s. Have children point to each letter and say its letter name with you.

Say It
Students produce the letter-sound in speech.

Introduce letter-sound correspondence Ss/. Explain that the letter /s/ stands for the sound /s/, as in Sal. Call on children to name something in the picture whose name starts with the letter s. (for example—skis, skid, stick, swing)

Write It
Students form the letter on ice cream lines.

Demonstrate the formation of uppercase S. Display the Ice Cream Paper on your whiteboard. Tell children to watch as you write uppercase S on the handwriting lines. Explain what you are doing as you slowly form the letter.

Touch below the strawberry line; curve back; curve forward, ending above the chocolate line.
Increase Rigor of Foundational Skills Instruction in Grades 1–2

Rigorous Word Work instruction in grades 1–2 ensures students master the foundational skills they need to become lifelong readers and writers. Teacher’s Guides provide explicit, systematic instruction for phonics, spelling, structural analysis, grammar, vocabulary, and fluency skills.

Fluency: The bridge from foundational skills to comprehension

Students have extensive opportunities to practice targeted foundational skills in order to increase their reading fluency. As their fluency builds, students’ understanding of text grows.

Fluency skills, such as reading with expression and observing punctuation, are explicitly taught with the Readers.

UNIT 13 + LESSON 2

UNIT 13 + LESSON 1

UNIT 12 + LESSON 1

UNIT 12 + LESSON 2
Develop Comprehension Skills for Strategic Reading

Students learn the right comprehension strategies for their stage of reading development in small groups through explicit instruction that includes think-alouds, text-dependent questions, discussion, and graphic organizers.

Teachers guide students through Student Book, Reader, Super-Duper, and SUPER Magazine texts to engage them in deep thinking about literary and informational text.

In kindergarten, students learn fundamental comprehension skills such as understanding characters, recognizing plot, and drawing conclusions.

First graders build on what they learned in kindergarten with new comprehension skills such as determining cause and effect, recognizing text structure, and identifying main ideas and details.

In second grade, students are expected to draw meaning using comprehension skills such as connecting ideas, recognizing an author’s intent, and citing text evidence.
Deepen Understanding through Application and Independent Practice

Throughout reading instruction, teachers support and challenge students with differentiated reading instruction tailored to accelerate progress. They can also differentiate the texts students read in small groups and for independent practice.

Additional small-group comprehension instruction with three levels of Library or Book Club books ensures students practice and apply strategies in text that’s just right for them.

Throughout reading instruction, teachers support and challenge students with differentiated and independent practice.

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Accelerate Reading Gains with Increasingly Complex Text

As students are learning to master the alphabetic code, they are given opportunities to immediately apply these skills in increasingly complex text that matches instruction. This lesson-to-text alignment with truly engaging text is unique to Superkids and quickly and systematically accelerates students’ reading progress.

Scaffold readers to complex text

Throughout grades K–2, Superkids text follows a careful, intentional progression of complexity that

- provides opportunities to practice newly learned decoding skills.
- supports students’ transition from decodable to non-decodable text.
- builds upon and develops new content knowledge through a mix of literary and informational texts.
- leads students to gain deeper comprehension through close reading of text.

Multiple-text approach

Three types of text help meet the needs of beginning readers, preparing them to read successfully in third grade.

- **Decodable Text**: Engaging, cumulatively decodable text to develop decoding automaticity
- **Complex Text**: High-interest, grade-appropriate complex text to develop comprehension
- **Read-Aloud Text**: High-quality read-aloud text to develop listening comprehension and vocabulary
Apply Language Arts Skills in Writing Composition

Through daily explicit writing process instruction, students learn how to express their ideas effectively in writing and develop critical writing skills in a variety of text types and genres.

In each unit, students create a different writing product, ranging from personal narratives, research reports, and opinion speeches to poetry and friendly letters. They apply the language arts skills they’ve learned in Word Work and new vocabulary words in their writing.

**Step 1: Instruction and modeling**

Lessons focus on a writing skill or step of the writing process. Teachers use think-alouds and modeling.

**Step 2: Practice and application**

Students practice and apply what has been taught independently or in small groups or pairs. Teachers provide differentiated support in writing conferences.

**Step 3: Sharing**

Students share their writing with the class or a partner. Positive feedback during Sharing builds students’ confidence as writers and accelerates growth.

**Examples**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion Writing: Plan an opinion speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use Resource Page 1 (Opinion Speech Planning Chart)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Instruction and modeling**

Discuss and model how to plan an opinion speech. Display Resource Page 1 and explain that you’ll use this page to plan your speech. Point out the first section of the planning chart. Explain that you’ll show them how they can plan an opinion speech that follows this structure.

### Opinion Writing: Plan an opinion speech

**Step 1: Instruction and modeling**

**Objective:** Students write longer, more structured writing products within the major text types—narrative, informative/explanatory, and opinion. Lessons teach more complex writing mechanics and specific skills for each genre.

Students write multiple narratives, informative explanatory texts, opinions, and other genres. They practice writing mechanics and genre-specific writing skills.

Students first learn how to communicate their ideas through drawing and labeling, moving on to writing sentences, narrative stories, and other text types.

**Step 2: Practice and application**

Have children plan their opinion speech. Distribute copies of the planner on Resource Page 1. Explain that they will complete the plan with their opinion, reasons, and examples for their chosen topic. Tell children that the planner has space to write notes for reasons to support their opinion, but they may only write two strong ones. If children can only think of one or two reasons to support their opinion, they may use the space to add those notes. Point out that a third reason can make their opinion speech stronger, but they need only write two strong ones. If children choose to write a third reason, they should write it in the space provided. Children may use the space to add notes.

**Step 3: Sharing**

Have children share their opinion and either at least one supporting reason and example or another strong reason. They should begin discussing how other students understood their reasons. Children can add additional reasons if they think they need to.

**Sharing**

Have children share their opinion and effects at least one supporting reason and example. Give positive feedback for strong supporting reasons and examples that help illustrate the reasons.

**Directions**

Below: Student A writes his opinion and effects at least one supporting reason and example. Student B adds an additional reason that helps illustrate the reasons.

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**Opinion Writing: Plan an opinion speech**

**Use Resource Page 1 (Opinion Speech Planning Chart)**

Discuss and model how to plan an opinion speech. Display Resource Page 1 and explain that you’ll use this page to plan your speech. Point out the first section of the planning chart. Explain that you’ll show them how they can plan an opinion speech that follows this structure.
Assessment Options Provide Insight into Progress

Ongoing assessment reveals students’ progress and informs teachers’ decisions about reteaching, challenging students, and grouping students for instruction.

Assessment Books, online printable tests, interactive tests, and other resources provide ample opportunities to assess students formally and informally.

Frequent Informal Assessments

Quick Assessments in Superkids Skill-Building Book
One-on-one skill assessment to inform differentiation, grades K-2

Daily Routines
Ongoing observations, grades K-2

Student Book, Word Work Book, and Backpack Pages
Daily ongoing observations of completed work, grades K-2

Periodic Formal Assessments

- **Readiness Test**: Diagnostic assessment of emergent literacy skills, grade K
- **Beginning-of-the-Year Test**: Diagnostic assessment of skills, grades 1-2
- **Progress and Midyear Tests**: Periodic formative and summative assessments, grades K-2
- **Benchmark Tests**: Summative assessment of skill mastery, grade K
- **End-of-Year Test**: Summative assessment of skill mastery, grades 1-2

Reports

Interactive tests are automatically scored, and data can be exported in individual student and class reports.
Reach All Students Through Differentiation

Instruction in Superkids can be differentiated to provide more support or extra challenge for students as needed.

A variety of resources and techniques are recommended throughout the program for working with below-, on-, and above-level students as well as English language learners. These flexible tools enable teachers to use their expertise to meet the needs of their students.

At point of use in Teacher’s Guides

ELL Support
Teacher tips to support English language learners

Differentiation Tips
Tips for below-, on-, and above-level students

Ten-Minute Tuck-Ins
Use Ten-Minute Tuck-Ins at the end of each lesson to reinforce and extend skills. These activities often use letter or word cards to provide a hands-on way for students to learn letter-sounds, structural skills, and spelling patterns. Interactive Tuck-Ins are available in the online Teacher Portal.

Supercrstar Skill-Building Book
This collection of activities and resources is used to reinforce, enrich, and target skills in grades K-2. Each section focuses on an essential skill strand.

- Sounds
- Letters
- Phonics
- Structural analysis
- Fluency

- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Spelling
- Grammar, usage, and mechanics
- Writing composition

Challenging Workouts
High-achieving students have many opportunities to flex and stretch their skills.

Activities and Tips
Provide additional skill instruction and practice for specific aspects of a skill strand, such as developing vocabulary, relationships among words, and word-reading strategies in the Vocabulary section.

I really love the differentiation that is provided to assist with all types of learners and readers.
— Karla Janosi, First/Second-Grade Teacher, Florida
Everything You Need to Be Successful

Superkids materials are designed to pack a bigger punch. They’re precisely integrated and to the point, yet comprehensive, so that you can make every minute of your language arts block count.

FOR STUDENTS
• 18 Student Books (one set per student)
• Libraries
  » 13 Library Books, first semester
  » 10 Informational Text Library Books, second semester
• Leveled Libraries, second semester
  » 17 Easy Library Books
  » 17 On-Level Library Books
  » 17 Challenging Library Books
• Online Access

FOR TEACHERS
• Teacher Materials
  » 20 Student Book Teacher’s Guides
  » 2 Writing Teacher’s Guides
  » 2 Super Smart Teacher’s Guides
  » 2 Assessment Books
  » 2 Practice Page Teacher Editions
  » 5 Library Teacher’s Guides
  » 24 Super Smart International Digital Read-Along
  » Big Book of Blending
  » Classroom Resource Kit
  » Online Access

COMPONENTS
FOR STUDENTS
• 3 Word Work Books (one set per student)
• 2 Readers (one set per student)
• 17 Super-Duper mini-magazines (one set per student)
• Leveled Libraries
  » 17 Easy Library Books
  » 17 On-Level Library Books
  » 17 Challenging Library Books
• Online Access

FOR TEACHERS
• Teacher Materials
  » 17 Teacher’s Guides
  » 2 Assessment Books
  » 2 Practice Page Teacher Editions
  » 2 Backpack Page Teacher Editions
  » 6 Leveled Library Teacher’s Guides
  » 17 Super Smart International Digital Read-Along
  » Big Book of Decoding
  » Classroom Resource Kit
  » Online Access

FOR TEACHERS
• Teacher Materials
  » 17 Whole Class Teacher’s Guides
  » 6 SUPER Magazine Teacher’s Guides
  » 2 Assessment Books
  » 2 Backpack Page Teacher Editions
  » 4 Book Club Teacher’s Guides
  » Big Book of Decoding
  » Classroom Resource Kit
  » Online Access

FOR TEACHERS
• Book Club
  » 10 Book-Club titles
  » 10 Book Talk Journals
  » Online Access

GRADE
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FOR TEACHERS
• 5 Library Teacher’s Guides
  » 24 Super Smart International Digital Read-Along
  » Big Book of Decoding
  » Classroom Resource Kit
  » Online Access

FOR STUDENTS
• 3 Word Work Books (one set per student)
• 2 Readers (one set per student)
• 8 SUPER Magazines (one set per student)
• Online Access

FOR STUDENTS
• 3 Word Work Books (one set per student)
• 2 Readers (one set per student)
• 6 SUPER Magazines (one set per student)
• Online Access

FOR TEACHERS
• 18 Student Book Teacher’s Guides
• 2 Writing Teacher’s Guides
• 2 Super Smart Teacher’s Guides
• 2 Assessment Books
• 2 Practice Page Teacher Editions
• 5 Library Teacher’s Guides
• 24 Super Smart International Digital Read-Along
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GRADE
1

GRADE
2

FOR TEACHERS
• Teacher Materials
  » 17 Teacher’s Guides
  » 2 Assessment Books
  » 2 Practice Page Teacher Editions
  » 2 Backpack Page Teacher Editions
  » 6 Leveled Library Teacher’s Guides
  » 17 Super Smart International Digital Read-Along
  » Big Book of Decoding
  » Classroom Resource Kit
  » Online Access
Superkids Is All Online!

The Superkids Teacher Portal features lesson-planning tools, on-demand professional development videos, digital versions of print materials, and other helpful online resources for teaching and learning. Students can also log in to access their content at school and home.

FOR STUDENTS
• Online assessments
• Interactive games
• Animated songs
• Interactive Magazines, Readers, and Library Books

FOR TEACHERS
• Lesson-planning tools with state standards correlations
• Class roster
• Reports for online student assessments
• Interactive Ten-Minute Tuck-Ins
• Super Smart Informational Digital Read-Alouds (K-1)

Connect school to home
Families can stay informed and involved by logging in to the parent portal for classroom messages and at-home access to games and interactive texts.

Growing and learning with the Superkids by their side, students develop the K-2 literacy skills they need to be successful in grade 3 and beyond. Build success, inspire students, and extend learning with The Superkids Reading Program.

Visit zaner-bloser.com to learn more and view samples.