



Superkids aligns with the mission of Catholic education

Engage all students

The 19 elementary schools in the Diocese of Fresno, California, independently adopt their own curriculum. Because of teacher enthusiasm and outstanding results with students, eight of the diocesan schools have adopted *The Superkids Reading Program™* over the last five years. “In our diocese, we say we educate all of God’s children one child at a time. *Superkids* helps us to enable that mission by meeting the needs of all the children and by doing it systematically, the way the brain processes language,” says Donna Smith, assistant superintendent.

“**Students’ decoding skills have improved. Reading levels have moved up.**”

—Lorena Martinez, First-Grade Teacher,
Our Lady of Guadalupe School

Schools’ average scaled scores in early literacy, 2016–2017 school year

After half a year of *Superkids®*, scores on STAR™ Early Literacy assessments for kindergartners increased by an average of 96 points across schools.

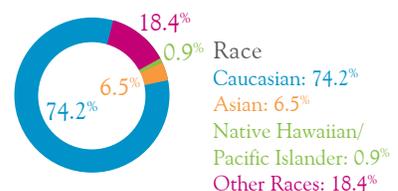
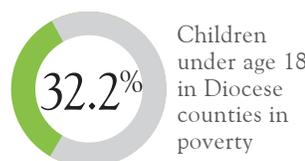


School

The eight schools in the diocese using *Superkids* witnessed increasing success in early literacy. STAR Early Literacy scaled scores are calculated based on the difficulty of assessment items and correct responses. They also identify reading stages.

District Profile: Fresno Diocese schools using Superkids

Eight of 19 schools in urban and suburban neighborhoods in the Southern San Joaquin Valley



When assistant superintendent Donna Smith was a school principal in the diocese six years ago, she discovered *Superkids*. Although her school had purchased a reading program the prior year, she was thoroughly impressed with the *Superkids* program. “I said, ‘Okay, we’re done with what we’re using. We have to use this.’”

Our *Superkids* schools are generally the highest schools in early literacy. ”

—Donna Smith, Assistant Superintendent

After using *Superkids* in her own school, Smith was asked to present the program to other diocesan principals. At that time, four more schools adopted the program; then three more did. Smith expects all schools to be using the program within a year. “The superintendent is very much a *Superkids* fan, as I am,” she says.

Solid growth with *Superkids*

First-grade teacher Lorena Martinez, Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Bakersfield, saw impressive results with *Superkids*. Her class is composed of nearly 100% English Language Learners, and she was disheartened with their incoming literacy levels before *Superkids*. During the first year using the program, her students scored seven points above the national first-grade midyear benchmark. “I tried to stay positive and, sure enough, when we got the scores, their literacy scores went up!”

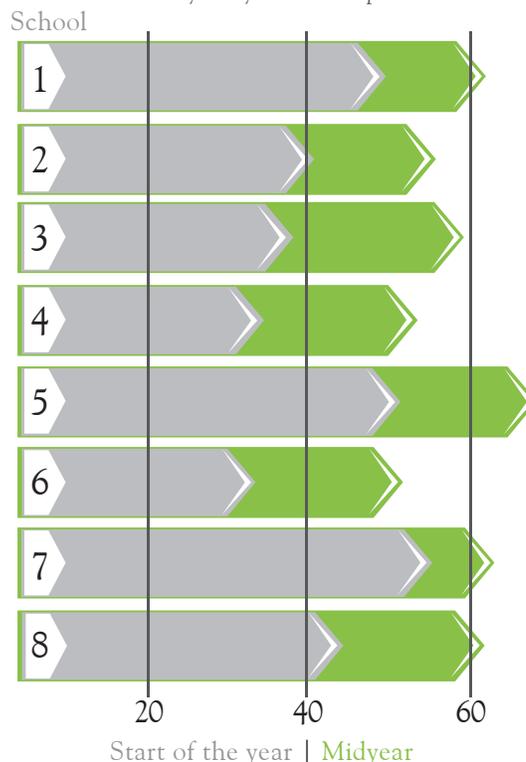
In *Superkids* schools, kindergartners excelled in important markers of early literacy after only half a year of *Superkids*. Schools’ average scores in phonemic awareness, one of 10 subdomains of literacy in STAR, increased by an average of 30%.

Grade 3 preparation

Teachers at diocesan schools are confident *Superkids* lays a foundation for reading that will carry students to grade 3. Because students who have used *Superkids* come into grade 3 as proficient readers, says St. Rose-McCarthy School principal Jamie Perkins, “Teachers have more time to talk about becoming better readers, work on comprehension strategies and skills, and spend more time writing.”

Increased phonemic awareness in *Superkids* schools

Average scores for kindergarten classes increased by midyear with *Superkids*.



Third-grade teachers feel that the kids are better prepared, particularly in writing, reading, and comprehension. ”

—Janet Wintz, First/Second-Grade Teacher, St. Rose-McCarthy School

Diocesan teachers credit the reading foundation and writing practice in *Superkids* with their students’ growth and confidence. An added bonus is *Superkids*’ deep connections to the diocesan mission. “Our mission is to reach all learners, all humans, in every way they come to us,” says Our Lady of Perpetual Help kindergarten teacher Julie Paulsen. Janet Wintz adds that the diversity and cooperation of the *Superkids* characters are important parts of the connection. “Tied in with the Lasting Lessons in each unit, *Superkids* supports the gospel message.”

To learn more about what makes *Superkids* a great fit for your school, visit superkidsreading.com or call 888.378.9258.