

Superkids students find reading success



Bringing up every student

At Perry Elementary School in Lima, Ohio, students often enter kindergarten already lagging behind, according to Ohio’s Kindergarten Readiness Assessment–Literacy test (KRA-L), administered statewide to kindergarten students before November 1 of their entry year. In 2013–2014, about 23% of Perry’s kindergarteners were identified as needing intense support.

Given Ohio’s renewed focus on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, administrators and teachers at Perry knew that a laser focus on early literacy would help their students succeed. Implementing *The Superkids Reading Program™* gave teachers the skills, materials, and resources they needed.

Challenges met by Superkids

As they enter Perry’s kindergarten classrooms, “a lot of kids don’t recognize letters or their sounds,” says principal Kelly Schooler. “They’re also lagging in fine motor skills.”

What helped students was that *Superkids®* focuses on high-frequency letters rather than rote memorization of the alphabet. “We assessed, after that first nine weeks of using

Superkids, the kids who had come in struggling with the KRA-L, and they knew those letters first taught: the C, the O, and the G,” says Schooler.

At Perry Elementary, *Superkids* was first introduced in Cheryl Fraley’s kindergarten class for her to use with struggling students during the last three months of the 2011–2012 school year. Even in that brief introduction, Fraley was impressed with and excited about the program.

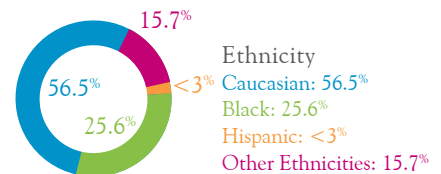
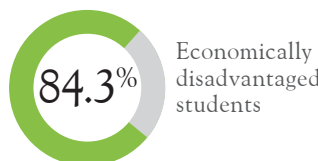
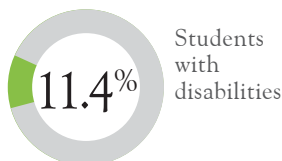
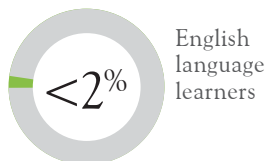
“Just from March until May, the increase in students’ skills was amazing,” Fraley says. She uses one student as an example of what she witnessed generally. “He really struggled with getting the concepts together, but when the *Superkids* program was implemented with him, he absolutely excelled.”

“Once we brought Superkids in, it was awesome how they related to it.”

—Cheryl Fraley, Kindergarten Teacher

Perry Elementary School

A high-needs public school near Lima, Ohio



Motivation means learning

One student's motivation to read is a single example, but the story is similar for Perry Elementary primary-grade students as a group. "All the kids got excited," says Fraley, "and then I got excited. The structure was awesome."

Perry Elementary students initially used a large national reading program, but "the kids couldn't connect with it," says Fraley. Reading *Superkids*, they found deep connections to the characters and their stories.

"We didn't start with a clear idea of fully implementing *Superkids*. We started as a response to a high-needs group, and because of the response and the excitement of the teachers, it just became contagious and that's how we moved forward with it," says principal Kelly Schooler.

Superkids helps students focus

Once Perry Elementary implemented *Superkids*, teachers discovered why the continuing characters across the program worked for their students.

"In other reading programs, every story is a brand new story with brand new characters, and students get caught up in the framework of 'What is this that we're doing?' They don't understand that they're reading another story to develop their reading," explains Schooler.

“With *Superkids*, students can actually concentrate on the text and the task of reading the text.”

—Kelly Schooler, Principal

Superkids' recurring, consistent characters explicitly address these concerns because students don't have the cognitive load of attending to an entirely new text and are already familiar with the characters in the story, Schooler says.

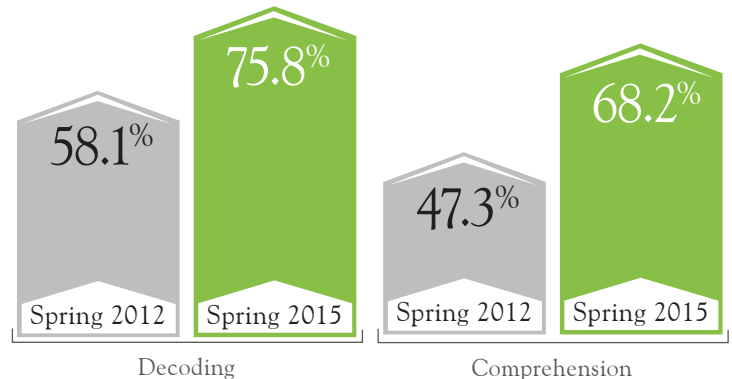
Success with Superkids

The first group of third-grade students using *Superkids* all three years saw great success. "We haven't had to retain anyone," says Schooler. "They've met the requirements either through alternative scores or they've made it through the state tests." Perry has not had to implement split classes to bring students up to grade level to meet the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

In addition to its success in state testing, Perry Elementary's internal assessments show progress with *Superkids* for grades 1 and 2. Results for the most recent grade 2 students using *Superkids* since kindergarten show that more than half (51.8%) are reading above grade 3 level at the end of the school year. Grade 1 students show similar success, with double-digit increases.

Grade 1 scores before and after Superkids implementation

Students scoring at or above grade level in decoding and comprehension on Gates-McGinitie reading tests, 2012 versus 2015



At the end of the past school year, Perry Elementary won Ohio's 2016 Momentum Award for its success in increasing students' assessment results. The Momentum Award is presented by the State Board of Education and recognizes schools for exceeding expectations in student growth for the year. Schools must earn straight A's on all Value-Added measures on the state's school report card. Perry showed significant progress in English language arts, according to the Ohio Department of Education.

“I'm definitely crediting our K–2 programming as one of the major reasons we've been so successful with the third-grade guarantee.”

—Kelly Schooler, Principal

"We've managed, this far, to be able to get everybody over the line either through the alternative score, the exemption, or getting the state score," says Schooler. *Superkids* is valuable for Perry teachers, and they have committed to *The Superkids Reading Program* for the foreseeable future.

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