Really Great Reading Publisher's Response to The Reading League's Curriculum Evaluation of Countdown, Blast Foundations, and HD Word

Really Great Reading is thrilled to have been reviewed by The Reading League (TRL) using their 2023 Curriculum Evaluation Guidelines. Per the TRL Curriculum Evaluation, Really Great Reading's Countdown, Blast, and HD Word programs were found to have **no red flags** in the areas of **Word Recognition**, **Phonological and Phoneme Awareness**, **Phonics and Phonic Decoding**, **Fluency**, **Handwriting**, **Spelling**, and 6 out of the 7 **Assessment** practices evaluated.

The reviewers' scores reflect our commitment to improving foundational reading skills for all learners since 2005. This review reaffirms our expertise and dedication to providing top-tier foundational literacy instruction. We wish to thank the TRL reviewers for the time and effort they have dedicated to reviewing our materials, and we will use this review to continue to improve our offerings.

Really Great Reading's Countdown, Blast Foundations, and HD Word

Really Great Reading's programs have a unique design that allows for fast-paced, sequential delivery of vital foundational reading skills instruction and practice. These programs are essential supplements to any core grade-level reading program. We believe that high quality Tier 1 foundational skills instruction in the primary grades is the best way to set students up to become proficient and automatic orthographic mappers. In addition, these skills enable students to become strong comprehenders who can learn from rich, knowledge-building texts in all subject areas.

Morphology & Vocabulary Support

RGR knows that pulling the words off the page is only one step to successful reading comprehension. To help students develop true word-level literacy, we weave morphology and vocabulary instruction throughout our foundational skills programs. Like our decoding and encoding instruction, our vocabulary solutions are firmly rooted in the Science of Reading.

Our Vocabulary Playgrounds, which are built into our popular Reading Playgrounds, provide teachers with access to premade assignments that showcase the meaning of many words that students encounter in Countdown, Blast, and HD Word. Students experience words in a way that helps them understand all aspects of the word: the phonology, the orthography, the morphology, and the meaning. This explicit exposure drives orthographic mapping and rich word-level literacy. Morphology units are also embedded within each of our programs to help students analyze and break down words into both syllables and morphemes, aiding both with learning word meanings and decoding. You can find these resources and much more in the Vocabulary section of the Countdown, Blast, and HD Word Online Supply Rooms.

Supports for Multilingual Learners

Really Great Reading prides itself on providing explicit, systematic, engaging, multisensory, and developmentally appropriate instruction that teaches multilingual learners (MLLs) the key skills they

need to become efficient and accurate decoders of English. Our approach ultimately leads to their success, not only in word identification, but also in comprehending what they read.

At RGR, supports for MLLs are woven throughout our materials. This is because many of our supports for MLLs, including scaffolding, visual reinforcement, and multisensory learning, benefit *all* students. Countdown, Blast, and HD Word Online also contain a variety of resources specifically and intentionally designed to support MLL students and their families who speak Spanish, as well as speakers of other languages. These include videos that clearly show mouth positioning and movement during English phoneme articulation, culturally responsive and highly visual animations that present concepts, such as Heart Words, in a way that MLLs can connect to and easily comprehend, anchor charts and videos to help any MLL student to develop confidence in the English classroom with clear and simple strategies, and instructional routine animations that break down our key instructional routines in a very visual and clear way.

RGR is aware that English learners are learning the meanings of words at the same time they are learning their structure. Because of this, we provide EL students with additional vocabulary exposure with images in our materials and teacher presentations to facilitate meaning and purpose for reading instruction.

As we continue to refine our offerings, we plan to incorporate native language assessment so that MLLs can more effectively and accurately demonstrate what they know and teachers can make more appropriate data-driven instructional decisions.

Striving for Exceptional Student Outcomes

Really Great Reading is a responsive organization that constantly strives to improve our materials and our teacher and student user experience. We plan to continue enhancing our product offerings to meet the ongoing needs of districts, teachers, and most importantly, students. Our research portfolio continues to grow, and our library of ESSA II and ESSA III research studies reaffirm the incredible results that schools are seeing with Really Great Reading instruction. Learn more about the positive impact our programs are having on students across the nation at https://www.reallygreatreading.com/successes.

We are incredibly proud that The Reading League has reviewed our exceptional programs and tools, and we can't wait to share more information with you. If you'd like to learn more about how Really Great Reading's Countdown, Blast, and HD Word programs could fit into your school or district, visit www.reallygreatreading.com or contact us at 866-401-7323.