



Background Information

Information on Development of Materials

Foundations A-Z is a digital-first, comprehensive solution for grades K-5 that delivers full foundational skills instruction, designed to harness the power of the Science of Reading research. Experts are confident that the Science of Reading research is the key to building stronger foundational knowledge, and will help meet the current challenge that too few students in the United States are able to read at or above grade level.

We designed Foundations A-Z to align with scientifically based reading research without constraining teachers from exercising their creativity or limiting students to march in lockstep. Although science informs what students need to learn, it does not inform how students will meet the learning outcomes. By providing a systematic and explicit framework of instruction that fully embraces the teachable moment, Foundations A-Z helps bring both the scientific reading research and art of teaching to the classroom, which, in turn, serves as a launchpad for overall academic success.

Foundations A-Z was written with underlying principles that include:

- Explicit research-based instruction
- Systematic scope and sequence
- Emphasis on phoneme-level instruction under the phonological awareness umbrella
- Instructional routines to practice foundational skills
- Embedded review to foster mastery of foundational skills
- Application of reading and writing skills using connected text in grades K-5 and writing connection
- Differentiated instruction with reteach and enrich opportunities
- Engaging instruction with a digital experience for students

We provide effective and easy-to-use tools in Foundations A-Z so that teachers can witness the magical “aha” moment, and feel the impact of their instruction as their young students decode a word for the first time.

Foundations A-Z keeps teachers at the heart of instruction, comprised of features that both honor the teacher’s autonomy while saving valuable time:

- Teaching Tips, Sample Dialogue, and corrective feedback are embedded within the lesson plans to support teachers as they guide instruction.
- Fun and engaging game-based activities automatically prompt on-the-spot feedback to students to correct mistakes without the immediate need for the teacher.
- Unit and interim assessment results are digitally scored, and unit assessments automatically generate Auto-Recommended Resources the teacher can choose to assign to students to reteach, reinforce or enrich key concepts.

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Students using Foundations A-Z have 24/7 access to the immersive Kids A-Z student portal and have the opportunity to earn incentives, customize personal avatars, and enjoy the learning journey alongside a fun space cast of characters. The digital student portal allows for learning to extend beyond the classroom for a fun and engaging way to practice their reading skills anywhere.

Much of what shaped Foundations A-Z's instructional approach was influenced by the underlying research, including reference to Scarborough's Reading Rope, the Simple View of Reading, along with the support of many researchers who contributed to the development of Foundations A-Z. The tenacious and thorough efforts of this team of experts ultimately contributed to the creation of Foundations A-Z to help all students become successful readers.

- Dr. Christina M. Cassano, Salem State University
- Dr. Susan Dougherty, Rider University
- Dr. Marcia Kosanovich, MK Educational Research & Practice, LLC
- Dr. Julia B. Lindsey
- Dr. Robert Millard
- Dr. Kathleen Paciga, Columbia College Chicago
- Dr. Timothy Rasinski, Kent State University

Special thanks to the following educators for their reviews and feedback in Foundations A-Z.

- Sam Johnson, Tangipahoa Parish School System
- Ryan Ung, Long Beach Unified School District

With Foundations A-Z, we bring the future of foundational skills instruction to you!

Research

Learning A-Z products blend teacher-led instruction with technology-enabled resources to make teaching more effective, practice more personalized, and learning more informed. Our products are based on research and backed by efficacy studies. We invite you to find out more and explore our [Research Library](#), or to check out our [Foundations A-Z Research Guide](#) to learn more about the research behind the development of Foundations A-Z.

Implementation Services

At Learning A-Z, we commit to being empathetic to your needs, efficient with your time, and provide effective support to get you back to what matters most - making a difference in the lives of your students. We invite you to visit the [Learning A-Z website](#) to access immediate assistance through our chat service. We also offer focused professional learning and curriculum services that deliver targeted solutions to address your unique district, school, or organizational needs. Our team of professional development experts will collaborate with you to tailor a program that ensures your educators can make the greatest impact on student learning.

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