

## Express Readers' Publisher Response

**Every child deserves the right to access and equity when it comes to education, and our belief is that it begins with literacy. Reading is a right, not a privilege.**

We appreciate the work that EdReports has done and continues to do to ensure quality programs are available to our kiddos.

**We aim for full transparency in this response.** For over a decade, Elise Lovejoy has dedicated herself to creating materials, resources, decodable books, and a quality foundational skills program to counter the lack of structured literacy in the field.

One person cannot do this work, and more likely, should not. We need a village of voices to bring the nuances needed for a variety of classroom environments and teacher knowledge depth. Although many incredible teachers have provided input and altered our course for the better, we are a small company, lacking a big curriculum team.

When Elise began this journey, it felt like an uphill battle but an urgent one. She wanted children to have systematic instruction, a wealth of meaningful practice, and a way to track progress to mastery. To that end, she jumped head-first into the world of curriculum and resources and created Express Readers.

Express Readers' series of decodable books and the curricular resources that directly align, such as the Tool Kits with decodable reading comprehension practice and monitoring, boast the highest quality, were crafted with care, are scaffolded to allow students' success and continued practice, were developed with children's interests in mind, and are loved by the teachers who use them. Our decodable books closely align to many programs, such as Foundations, UFLI, CKLA, 95 Core Phonics, and more. Please contact us at [contact@expressreaders.org](mailto:contact@expressreaders.org) for more information to receive detailed alignments.

Our program, Express STEPs, is a solid foundational skills program with room for growth. To that end, the entire curriculum is housed on the digital [Teacher's Platform](#) so as we learn more we can be responsive to the research. Programs need to shift as our knowledge base strengthens and expands, and although reviews and adoptions don't necessarily allow for this type of change, we think it is incredibly important to stay up-to-date with what we know best. To that end, Express STEPs will continue to be modified, and notifications will be added to help teachers know when such changes have been made.

**The first change that will come this year, in 2024,** is a clearer alignment between our phonics scope and sequence and the Daily Dos (phonological/phonemic awareness

strand). The Daily Dos were created, to show letters and utilize graphics to incorporate vocabulary acquisition, to provide a daily structure of phonemic awareness (along with various other phonological awareness skills, such as rhyming and syllable work). These Daily Dos were built to make the practice engaging, for easy-to-follow lessons for teachers, and to remove prep needed to create vibrant visuals and daily usage. Further connection between phonics being taught will increase the effectiveness of the practices, and we look forward to providing that for our teachers and students.

[The Teacher's Platform](#) not only contains our program, Express STEPS, as well as hundreds of supplemental activities to help teachers find valuable educational practice and games to assist review, further practice to mastery, and skill-level support.

Since the program began as a passion-driven project to support our resources, it will remain loyal to that view. We will be providing the entire Teacher's Platform teacher who needs access to an affordable, quality foundational skills curriculum and assessment program. We want structured literacy to be available to any teacher or school who needs it, because every student needs explicit and systematic instruction and practice.

Teacher knowledge is the most essential part of the success of our students, and so our hope is that educational establishments will provide opportunities for teacher growth before the retention of programs. BUT, teachers need tools and resources to effectively provide for their students, and our company hopes to help in any way that makes that possible.

[The Teacher's Platform](#) includes every piece of our program, outside of the hard copy books and the consumables (Tool Kits and Practice Pages). There are visual lessons for those resources that can be used instead, as well as alternate, printable decodable books for the Steps. (I Am Ready-Step 3 are available now. Steps 4-6 will be available by the end of 2024.) Beneath the Teacher Planner's on the Teachers Platform, you will find a section called "Material Substitutions" that helps teachers find resources to swap out in case they do not have funds to buy new materials. We will continue to build out this section and provide as much as possible to support teachers in any educational environment.

Our digital [Online Assessment Dashboard](#) is free for all teachers to help track progress for students.

We hope we can support your mission with decodable books, supplemental materials, or whichever of our resources will fill the gaps to ensure the full opportunity every child deserves. On that note, we have a FaceBook page called "[Reading For All](#)" that has one purpose: providing free resources to help teachers, especially those who do not have access. On that note, we have a FaceBook page called "[Reading For All](#)" that has one

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**To every educator doing this work, advocating for our kids, and staying knowledgeable about the research available to us, thank you with all our hearts.**