

Really Great Reading Publisher's Response to the EdReports Evaluation of Countdown, Blast Foundations, and HD Word

Really Great Reading is truly thrilled to have received **all green** scores from EdReports using their updated, thorough, rigorous rubric! The reviewers' narrative, evidence, and scores reflect our commitment to improving foundational reading skills for all learners since 2005. This report reaffirms our expertise and dedication to providing top-tier foundational literacy instruction. We wish to thank the EdReports reviewers for the time and effort they have dedicated to reviewing our materials, and we will use this report 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.

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, sheltered instruction is not an additional support, but is 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.

In the EL Resources portion of the Supply Room, we offer videos that clearly show mouth positioning and movement during English phoneme articulation. These videos are designed for MLLs whose native language is not English. Culturally responsive and highly visual animations present concepts, such as Heart Words, in a way that MLLs can connect to and easily comprehend. Anchor charts and videos help any MLL student to develop confidence in the English classroom with clear and simple strategies.

To enable language learners to fully engage with the activities in Countdown, Blast, and HD Word, we also offer instructional routine animations that break down our key instructional routines in a very visual and clear way. These animations facilitate students' understanding of the processes in the instructional activities, such as Finger-stretching and Build a Word, so that they do not simply go through the motions as they practice essential English phonemic awareness and phonics skills. 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.

RGR also offers an [English Learner Resource Hub](#) as an optional add-on to further enhance the resources for MLLs that are available in Countdown, Blast, and HD Word. This digital package contains foundational lessons that provide MLL students with the necessary skills to begin to read in the English language. It also contains a scope and sequence of resources for MLL students, letter-sound articulation videos, instructional animations to frontload English phonics skills in eight languages (Arabic, Haitian Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese), anchor charts, and additional downloads in the same eight languages to provide further support for teachers, students, and families.

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 is built into our HD Word Scope and Sequence. Additional morphology units are embedded within Countdown and Blast 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 Supply Room.

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 EdReports has recognized our exceptional programs and tools with **all green** ratings, and we can't wait to share more information with you. If you'd like to learn more about the EdReports review or how Really Great Reading's Countdown, Blast, and HD Word could fit into your school or district, visit www.reallygreatreading.com or contact us at 866-401-7323.