WHAT WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE: RESULTS MATTER

The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC), an initiative of USDE’s Institute of Education Sciences, is a central, trusted source of information for school decision-makers. Established in 2002, WWC reviews and assesses research evidence for educational programs, products, practices, and policies.

The WWC publishes intervention reports that assess research on beginning reading curricula and instructional strategies for students from kindergarten through third grade. The WWC translates effect sizes from research into an improvement index to reflect the change in a student’s percentile rank that can be expected if the student receives the intervention. Administrators use these index ratings to make informed decisions while selecting the right programs for their schools and districts.

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES, TWICE CONFIRMED

The WWC has twice confirmed the effectiveness of Reading Recovery. The 2013 study showed positive or potentially positive ratings across all four outcomes — alphabets (phonics and phonemic awareness), fluency, comprehension, and reading achievement. Among programs reviewed, Reading Recovery received the highest improvement index in reading achievement and fluency.

The 2023 study doubled down on the findings of its 2013 review, finding additional positive effects. Among the data in the 2023 report, an IES release cited, “...evidence that Reading Recovery® positively impacted student achievement in literacy immediately after the intervention. There is also promising evidence that the program positively impacted writing productivity and receptive communication immediately after the intervention and writing conventions 3 years after the intervention.”

LEARN MORE AT READINGRECOVERY.ORG

Reading Recovery® is a trademarked intervention through the United States Patent and Trademark Office.