Reading Literacy & Comprehension Curriculum for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum

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Teaching literacy requires educators to determine the needs of each student. Literacy is comprised of many components, such as oral language, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, letter and word identification, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Many frameworks for teaching literacy exist and are evolving. Technology has also added a new dimension to teaching literacy. It is important to use curriculum and programs that are successful and research based whenever possible.

Below is a listing of some examples of curriculum and programs that can be used to teach literacy to individuals on the autism spectrum. In addition to these programs, please be aware that there are many other supplemental programs, books, strategies, and resources that are not included but are available. Many of these resources can be accessed by Indiana residents via the Library at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community. Inclusion on this list does not imply endorsement of any one program.

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
Accessible Literacy Learning Reading Program ALL	Grades: Pre-K to 12+ Software designed to meet the needs of individuals with complex communication and physical access challenges. Also supports individuals who require augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). Uses Boardmaker® images.	Mayer-Johnson® http://www.mayer-johnson.com/
Achieve 3000®	Grades: 2 to 12 Three differentiated online literacy instruction solutions that use individualized Lexile® reading levels. KidBiz3000® Grades: 2 to 5 Reading and writing assignments with non-fiction content based on each student's reading level. TeenBiz3000® Grades: 6 to 8 Prepares for college and career. Empower3000® Grades: 9 to 12 Teaches the critical literacy skills to compete and succeed post-graduation.	Achieve3000® Believe http://www.achieve3000.com/

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
Autism and Reading Comprehension: Ready-to-Use Lesson Plans for Teachers	Grades: 1-3 Includes 9 Levels of animal-themed lessons and step-by-step lesson plans for group instruction. Also includes Assessment and Data Collection forms.	Future Horizons http://fhautism.com/
Boardmaker® Software	Grades: Pre-K to 12+ Software that is designed to create materials using visual supports combined with language. Symbols can be used to improve reading comprehension.	Mayer-Johnson® http://www.mayer-johnson.com/
Clicker 7	Grades: K to 6th Software tool that offers extensive support to emergent, developing and struggling readers and writers.	Mayer-Johnson® http://www.mayer-johnson.com/
Corrective Reading 2008	Grades: 3 to 12+ Intensive, direct instruction-based reading intervention for students struggling with decoding and comprehension. Lessons provide structure and practice necessary to become skilled and fluent readers. Teaches decoding and comprehension. Used for small groups. Additional tools include whiteboard activities, eBooks, and progress monitoring.	McGraw-Hill Education https://www.mheonline.com

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
Early Literacy Skills Builder™ (ELSB) Early Reading Skills Builder™ (ERSB)	Grades: K to 4* *For Moderate to Severe Developmental Disabilities ELSB incorporates systematic instruction to teach both print and phonemic awareness. Multi-year program with ongoing assessments so individuals progress at their own pace. ERSB continues to progress students from early literacy to a second grade reading level. Skills addressed include phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency. Both programs incorporate scripted lessons, teachable objectives, built-in lesson repetition, and ongoing assessments for one-on-one or in small groups and formal assessments.	Attainment Company http://www.attainmentcompany.com
Earobics®	Grades: Pre-K to 3 A multi-sensory software reading intervention program, written in a fun, game-based format. Teaches phonics, listening skills, and auditory discrimination.	Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt http://www.earobics.com/
Edmark Functional Word Series Combo	Grades: 6 to 12+ Functional curriculum that uses word recognition and repeated exposure to target words within a variety of engaging learning activities. 100 words for four functional areas: Fast Food/Restaurant Words, Grocery Words, Job/Work Words, and Signs Around You.	Pro-Ed, Inc. http://www.proedinc.com

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
Edmark Reading Program Levels I & II	Grades: K to 3 Research-based instruction in vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency. Uses strategies of errorless learning, positive reinforcement, manipulatives, oral and sight word vocabulary, social skills enrichment, and progress monitoring. Can be used as print only or in combination with matching software. Can also be used with a variety of devices to interact with the program (i.e., adapted keyboards and switches). Uses mastery tests, lesson plans, games, and DVDs of sight words for comprehension.	Pro-Ed, Inc. http://www.proedinc.com Mayer-Johnson® http://www.mayer-johnson.com/
Everyday Readers Curriculum	Grades: Pre-K to 4 Collection of 36 read-aloud stories with photos which encourage students to follow along and understand the stories. Teacher's Guide contains lesson plans and includes additional vocabulary and sequencing activities.	Attainment Company http://www.attainmentcompany.com
Explicit Phonemic Alphabetic Connect Curriculum (EPACC)	Grades: K to 3 The Explicit Phonemic Alphabetic Connections Curriculum (EPACC) emphasizes fundamental skills that all early readers must master. The curriculum connects sounds in spoken words to letters of the alphabet, systematically and explicitly, to help beginning readers reach skill proficiency benchmarks.	Attainment Company http://www.attainmentcompany.com

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
Failure Free Reading™	Grades: K to 12+ Curriculum is a combination of teaching, text, and technology. Has highly-structured, multi-sensory language development lessons that teach word recognition, comprehension, and fluency. Has added a Life Skills program for high school-aged students. Complete language/literacy curriculum centers on 1 of 4 "School to Career" transition themes.	Failure Free Reading™ http://failurefreeonline.com/
First Words, First Words II, and First Verbs	Grades: Pre-K to 12+ Structured training program to teach nouns and verbs. Each program teaches 50 words in developmental order, focusing on five words at a time. App available.	Attainment Company http://www.attainmentcompany.com
Jamestown Readers	Grades: 6 to 12+ Provides high-interest content for adolescent and adult readers at accessible reading levels. Readabilities covered range from first grade to adult, and all content is appropriate for adolescent and adult readers.	McGraw Hill https://www.mheonline.com/
K-Pals Workbook	Grades: Pre-K to K This 20-week program helps students build a solid foundation in early reading skills. Includes teacher training lessons, daily direction cards, student game sheets, and printable materials. Activities are evidence based and easy to implement. Develops oral language, phonological awareness, print awareness, emergent writing, and early comprehension skills.	Book Authors: Patricia Mathes, Ph.D.; Joseph K. Torgesen, Ph.D.; and Jeanine Clancy-Menchetti, M.A. http://www.learningstore.org

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
LanguageLinks® to Literacy	Grades: Pre K to 3 A print and software program whose systematic instruction focuses on receptive and expressive language skills.	Attainment Company http://www.attainmentcompany.com
Learning A-Z®	Grades: K to 6 Headsprout® Grades: K to 5 Research-based, early reading program that includes online lessons and printed stories. Raz-Kids® Grades: K to 5 Online subscription to 400+ leveled eBooks. Individuals can listen to books, read, and record themselves reading. eQuizzes for each book test reading comprehension. Reading A-Z® Grades: Pre-K to 6 This online subscription includes lessons, books, worksheets, and assessments that are leveled according to ability. Teachers can print and create activities that are available online.	Learning A-Z® http://www.learninga-z.com/

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
LiPS: The Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing® Program for Reading, Spelling, and Speech	Grades: Pre-K to 12+ This comprehensive multisensory program uses explicit, systematic instruction to develop phonological awareness, decoding, spelling, and reading skills. Includes 1:1, small group, or whole group instruction. Can be used collaboratively with speech-language pathologists and educators.	Lindamood-Bell® Learning Processes http://www.lindamoodbell.com
PAth to Literacy	Grades: PreK to K This program teaches phonological awareness and alphabet skills through fun 10-15 minute activities. Can be used with small groups.	Brookes Publishing http://www.brookespublishing.com/
PCI Reading	Grades: K to 2 Beginning literacy instruction based on thematic units of science and social studies content. Each thematic unit includes 3 levels of instruction that builds background knowledge and helps to master critical reading and writing skills.	Mayer-Johnson® http://www.mayer-johnson.com/
Read Naturally®	Grades: K to 8 Uses a combination of technology and printed materials in small group and individual instruction. Research-based, online reading programs teach phonemic awareness, phonics, high-frequency words, fluency, and reading comprehension.	Read Naturally Inc. http://www.readnaturally.com/research
Read180®	Grades: 4 to 12+ Technology-based intervention program designed to raise student achievement in reading. Includes performance-based assessments and Writing Zone app available for iPad™.	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt https://www.hmhco.com/products/read-180/

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
Reading Horizons®	Grades: K to 12+ Reading instruction and intervention program that uses a simple and systematic, multi-sensory approach. Uses sounds of the alphabet, phonetics, and decoding. Based on Orton-Gillingham principles of instruction.	Reading Horizons® http://www.readinghorizons.com/
Reading Milestones	Grades: K to 4+ This adaptable direct instruction model has six levels that are designed to teach phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, oral reading, question/answer, summarizing, and prediction skills. Includes teacher manual, workbooks, and spelling programs.	Pro-Ed, Inc. http://www.proedinc.com
Read to Achieve: Comprehending Narrative Text	Grades: 6 to 12 Incorporates research-based practices that help secondary students with the more complex forms of literacy. Systematic instruction helps struggling readers develop comprehension strategies, word-learning strategies, decoding skills, study skills, and fluency.	McGraw-Hill Education https://www.mheonline.com
Rigby Readers K-5 Leveled Readers K-12	Grades: K to 12+ Leveled reading system including over 1000 titles and 30 levels.	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt http://www.hmhco.com/
Soar to Success	Grades: 3 to 8 Intensive intervention program that supports your core reading program. This small-group model uses motivating literature, reciprocal teaching, and graphic organizers in fast-paced lessons.	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt http://www.hmhco.com/

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
SRA Early Interventions in Reading	Grades: K to 3 Designed to supplement Tier II interventions. Provides intense instruction that low-level readers need to meet grade-level expectations. Teaches phonemic awareness, letter-sound correspondences, word recognition and spelling, fluency, and comprehension.	McGraw-Hill Education https://www.mheonline.com
SRA FLEX Literacy™	Grades: 3 to 5 and 6 to 12 Data driven intervention that is founded on research-based practices. Combines the best of computer-based and teacher-lead instruction. Ongoing assessment that provides differentiated instruction helps educators mold their teaching instruction.	McGraw Hill https://www.mheonline.com/
SRA Language for Learning	Grades: Pre-K to 2 Direct instruction reading intervention program that focuses on vocabulary and concepts necessary for pre-reading, comprehension, and language development.	McGraw-Hill Education https://www.mheonline.com
SRA Reading Mastery	Grades: K to 5 Direct instruction reading intervention program that is systematic for at-risk populations. Can be used as a supplemental program or a comprehensive core reading program. Targets phonics, spelling, vocabulary, word recognition, and comprehension.	McGraw-Hill Education https://www.mheonline.com

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
STAR® Autism Support FACTER® Links® Sunshine Literacy Kit®	Grades: K to 12+. Programs that are designed specifically for individuals with ASD and developmental delays. Uses ABA (applied behavior analysis) instructional methods of discrete trial training and pivotal response to teach functional routines. Includes detailed lesson plans, teaching materials, data systems, and a curriculum-based assessment. Sunshine Literacy Kit® Grades: K to Early Elementary Kits use premade activities that are fun and motivational to teach social skills, such as joint attention, attending to a structured activity, and socializing in a group. Lessons focus on literacy and offer opportunity to practice and generalize skills learned in direct instruction sessions. Includes language, letters, sight words, and comprehension. FACTER® and Links® Grades: 5 to 12+ Teach everyday routines and skills for daily living. Promote independence in natural environment.	STAR® Autism Support http://starautismsupport.com
Starfall®	Grades: Pre-K to Early Elementary+ Online reading resources and curriculum that integrates math, science, health, phonics, creative arts, social studies, physical movement, literacy, social-emotional development, and more.	Starfall® www.starfall.com

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
System 44®	Grades: 3 to 12+. Technology-based instruction designed to help students master foundational reading skills, comprehension, and writing.	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt https://www.hmhco.com/products/system-44/
TeachTown®	Grades: Pre-K to 3 Designed for children ages 2 to 7. Uses research and evidence-based practices, such as ABA (applied behavior analysis), to teach a wide-range of meaningful skills, including literacy. Additional social skills activities are available.	TeachTown® http://web.teachtown.com
The Basic Reading Comprehension Kit for Hyperlexia and Autism	Grades: K to 7 Program is broken into 2 Levels. Level 1: Teaches sight word vocabulary comprehension using stories and strong visual supports, including rebus-type stories. Level 2: contains higher-complexity stories to teach more critical reading comprehension skills, including sequencing, main idea, and answering WH questions.	Pro-Ed http://www.proedinc.com/
Tucker Signing Strategies for Reading	Grades: K to 12 Kinesthetic program manual + DVD that is designed specifically for non-readers. Combines use of hand signs, adapted from American sign language, with letter sounds to begin process of decoding unfamiliar words.	Aha Process! Inc. A Ruby Payne Company http://www.ahaprocess.com

Resource	Description	Vendor/Company
Unique Learning System® News2You	Grades: Pre-K to 12+ This online standards-based program is designed as functional curriculum for individuals with ASD and developmental delays. Is divided into monthly thematic units with 30 lesson plans and downloadable materials. Uses SymbolStix® graphics. Includes three levels of differentiation for diverse learners.	Unique Learning System® https://www.n2y.com
Visualizing-Verbalizing ® V/V®	Grades: K to 12 Helps struggling readers comprehend by creating mental imagery for language, otherwise known as image gestalt, for improved comprehension and expression of oral and written language and critical thinking skills.	Lindamood-Bell® Learning Processes http://www.lindamoodbell.com
Wilson Reading System ®	Grades: K to 12 This multi-sensory interactive program is based on Orton-Gillingham principles. Teaches the structure of the language and is designed to be implemented in 1:1 or small group settings for multiple years. Addresses decoding, encoding, oral reading fluency, and comprehension.	Wilson Language Training Corp® http://www.wilsonlanguage.com
Wonders	Grades: K to 6 This print and software program teaches Common Core State Standards. Helps to build a strong reading foundation through hands-on and engaging activities. .	McGraw-Hill Education https://www.mheonline.com