

Background:

I teach 2nd and 3rd graders who have Developmental Delays or Learning Disabilities. I am a huge proponent of using direct instruction to remediate learning needs. I was somewhat skeptical about using a computer based program initially. After using Lexia Core 5 for the first month I was completely sold and enamored with this addition to my direct instruction practice. It has helped to enrich my direct instruction; I am now teaching additional skills that I didn't even know I had been missing, and my students are making astounding progress. One case in point: I received a new 3rd grade student in August of this school year. At that time he did not know all his letter sounds, was basically a non-reader, and could not spell the simplest, decodable words. His Core 5 placement test put him in level 4, a mid-Kindergarten level. Currently he is half way through level 10, a beginning 2nd grade level, and has gained 464 units. I have seen his confidence grow tremendously, he tries to read more difficult material, he volunteers in class, and he smiles more!

Reasons I love Core 5:

- Students are highly motivated using it
- Students get multiple repetitions on any given skill
- It works hand in glove with Reading Mastery, Words Their Way (a spelling program), and the Quick Phonics Screener that I already have in place
- I get information regarding specific skills regarding my students' need for additional instruction
- As chair of our SIT process (MTSS) I recommend Core 5 regularly as an intervention
- I hear/see students making connections to what they learned on Core 5 to their direct instruction reading time with me

Please consider funding this amazing program.

Nancy Barstow

Lee School

Manhattan, KS