



Read Naturally Introduces Read Live, Our Next-Generation Assessment and Intervention Solution

Read Naturally® is proud to introduce Read Live, our newest intervention and assessment program. Based on the research-based Read Naturally strategy, Read Live is a web-based program that assesses and provides differentiated instruction to meet the needs of a wide range of students.

This comprehensive program includes **Benchmark Assessor Live** for screening students for overall reading proficiency and our newest fluency-intervention program, **Read Naturally Live**, which is based on the same powerful strategies used in Read Naturally ME and SE.

Advantages of Read Live

- Read Live offers a number of advantages:
- **Lower implementation costs:** Because Read Live is a web-based program, all software and content is hosted on Read Naturally's computers. Customers just need a web browser with Adobe Flash support. There's no other hardware or software to set up, install, or maintain.
- **Simplified pricing:** Schools pay one price for each student and receive access to all 13 of our Sequenced levels and all 6 of our Phonics levels.
- **Assessment tool included:** For each Read Naturally Live seat purchased, Read Live includes 30 seats of Benchmark Assessor Live.
- **Streamlined maintenance:** Read Live makes it easy to centrally manage students. With a few clicks of the mouse, you can transfer students to another school, change the grade or teacher for a group of students, or make students who have graduated from the program inactive so their seats are available to new students.
- **More privacy:** Read Live includes new



Read Naturally Live Practice Screen

options for administrative and support roles, enabling you to limit access to student data to only those who need it.

Read Naturally Live

Read Naturally Live is a new and improved web-based implementation of our highly effective fluency intervention. Read Naturally Live also supports vocabulary development and promotes comprehension. Our powerful strategy combining teacher modeling, repeated reading, and progress monitoring is now even more engaging with

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New White Paper Provides Intro to Differentiated Instruction

A new white paper available on the Read Naturally website provides a helpful introduction to differentiated instruction, a very important topic for educators.

Entitled **“Differentiating Instruction: Teaching Differently to Improve Reading Instruction,”** the paper is written by Vicki Gibson, Ph.D. Gibson is a nationally known educator, author, and consultant, and coauthored the book *Differentiated Instruction: Grouping for Success* with Jan Hasbrouck, Ph.D.

Gibson defines differentiating instruction as “teaching differently” and “changing how instruction and practice occur in schools to enhance learning.”

Instead of using only a traditional lecture format with the teacher in front of a class of students, the paper explains that differentiated instruction requires that whole-class activities be interspersed with small-group, teacher-led instruction; small-group work with peers; and independent work.

In this model, there’s still a place for whole-class instruction, but the purpose is limited to introducing new content or providing a quick review of previously taught information. The instructional purpose of small groups is to ensure understanding and to develop sufficient skills.

Gibson says that this new model gives educators the ability to design instruction that “includes more interactive collaboration that is data-informed and student focused.”

She also explains what this means on a practical level, acknowledging that the two questions of most concern to teachers regarding differentiated instruction are “What are the other students doing while I am working with a small group?” and “How do I get everything done?”

Gibson answers those questions by offering a five-step process designed to

establish an efficient and effective learning environment:

- 1 Establishing the environment.
- 2 Using data to inform practice.
- 3 Managing resources (using a daily schedule, job chart, and rotation chart).
- 4 Creating routines and procedures.
- 5 Providing high-quality teaching and practice.

A supplement to the white paper, **“Differentiating Instruction With Read Naturally Programs and Assessments,”** extends this discussion to a practical level. Jan Hasbrouck, a nationally known and respected researcher, author, and trainer, provides insights into how Read Naturally assessments and curricula provide the data to inform practice and the programs needed for high-quality teaching and practice.

The complete white paper and the supplement will be available this spring as free downloads from the Document Center page of the Read Naturally website:

www.readnaturally.com/doccenter ◆

Candidates Sought for Curriculum & Professional Development Position

Read Naturally is seeking an experienced educator for the position of Associate Manager of Curriculum and Professional Development. The applicant should have broad experience in teaching reading and in developing and providing professional development. The location for this full-time position is on-site at Read Naturally’s office in St. Paul, MN.

A job description outlining the responsibilities and competencies required is posted on the Read Naturally website: www.readnaturally.com/jobs ◆

Rationale Paper Supports the Use of Spanish Read Alongs for ELL Students

A new rationale paper by a University of Texas researcher supports the approach of using Spanish read alongs for some native Spanish speakers who use Read Naturally.

The paper, entitled “**Fluency, Language Comprehension, and English Language Learners,**” is authored by Alejandra Mielke, Ph.D., an educational researcher at the University of Texas at Austin. Her main research focus is the reading and academic achievement of culturally and linguistically diverse students.

In the paper, Mielke discusses the dual challenge faced by students who are English language learners (ELL)—developing reading skills at the same time they are learning a new language.

Mielke explains that there is a bidirectional relationship between fluency and language comprehension, where fluent readers tend to have better comprehension of what they read, but better comprehension can also help students become more fluent readers.

Schools may want to support some native Spanish speakers by having them first read along with the Spanish translation of a Read Naturally story, in order to learn vocabulary and gain subject-matter knowledge, before having them read along and practice the same story in English to build fluency.

Mielke points out that it is important to verify students’ understanding of the Spanish text to help them develop their fluency and comprehension.

This approach is one of the added features built into the new web-based Read Naturally Live program, described in the cover story of this newsletter. It is also possible to use the same approach in Read Naturally ME and SE programs by using both Spanish and English audio support. More information about how to use this approach in Read Naturally SE is available on our website:

www.readnaturally.com/sespan

Mielke’s complete rationale paper will be available later this spring as a free download from the Document Center page of the Read Naturally website:

www.readnaturally.com/doccenter ♦

New QPS: More Explicit Directions for Scoring & Interpreting Results

This spring, Read Naturally is releasing the second edition of Quick Phonics Screener (QPS), Read Naturally’s informal phonics assessment. First released in 2006, this individually administered, diagnostic phonics assessment was developed in cooperation with Jan Hasbrouck, Ph.D.

To help educators fine-tune their interpretation of the results, the second edition of QPS has rearranged the 10 skill sets into 13 skill sets. The new version also includes more explicit instructions for administration and scoring, and more examples of student scenarios to help educators interpret the results.

The cost of QPS second edition is \$54.00. Customers who have already purchased QPS can upgrade to the second edition for \$25.00 (offer good through 12/31/2011).

For more information about QPS, visit our website: www.readnaturally.com/qps ♦

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many new features:

- A new Wordtastic vocabulary game that actively engages students in vocabulary development while they wait for their teacher at the Cold Timing and Pass steps.
- An optional Spanish read along for many Sequenced series stories that supports native Spanish speakers by tapping into their background knowledge and exposing them to the story content in Spanish before they begin reading along and practicing the same story in English.
- Audio for the third read along that models an expressive rate for some levels
- New and updated stories at some levels.
- Expanded phonics lessons in Phonics levels with updated word lists for practice.
- Upgraded and revised comprehension questions
- Additional vocabulary words, definitions, and illustrations.
- New photo illustrations for all stories.

Benchmark Assessor Live

Benchmark Assessor Live is an oral reading fluency assessment for screening students for overall reading proficiency and identifying students who may need an intervention. Field-tested passages for grades 1–8 are used to assess students three times each year to track their progress and compare their scores to national norms.

Read Live 12-Month Subscriptions

Each Read Live seat includes:

- Access to 13 Sequenced and 6 Phonics curriculum levels for each enrolled student.
- Access to oral reading fluency benchmark assessment passages and reporting for up to 30 students.
- Online training videos.
- The ability to reassign purchased seats if a student completes or leaves the program.
- Technical support via phone or email. (Please see our website for technical support policies.)
- A 30-day expiration grace period that ensures your subscription will not expire

while you are planning your renewal.

12-Month Subscription Pricing

1 seat	\$59.00
2–30 seats	\$49.00 per seat – 17% discount
31–100 seats	\$44.00 per seat – 25% discount
Over 100 seats	\$39.00 per seat – 34% discount

Additional seats can be purchased on a pro-rated basis. To discuss multi-year and additional volume discount pricing, or to request a 60-day free trial, please call Read Naturally at 800-788-4085.

For more information about Read Live, including complete technical requirements, visit the Read Naturally website:

www.readnaturally.com/readlive ♦

Look for Read Naturally at Upcoming Conferences

Learn about Read Naturally’s programs and assessment tools at a conference near you. Read Naturally is represented at local, state, regional, national, and international conferences throughout the U.S. and Canada.

For the most current information about upcoming conferences Read Naturally will be attending, visit our website:

www.readnaturally.com/conferences ♦

Seminars Help You Get More Out of Programs & Assessments

This year, Read Naturally offers several professional development options to help you grow as an educator and make the most of your Read Naturally programs:

- Read Naturally seminars:
www.readnaturally.com/rnsem
- Train the Trainer workshop (Oct. 13–15, 2011, Bloomington, MN):
www.readnaturally.com/trntrainer
- Differentiating Instruction: Using Data to Prescribe Instruction in an RTI Model:
www.readnaturally.com/rtisem ♦