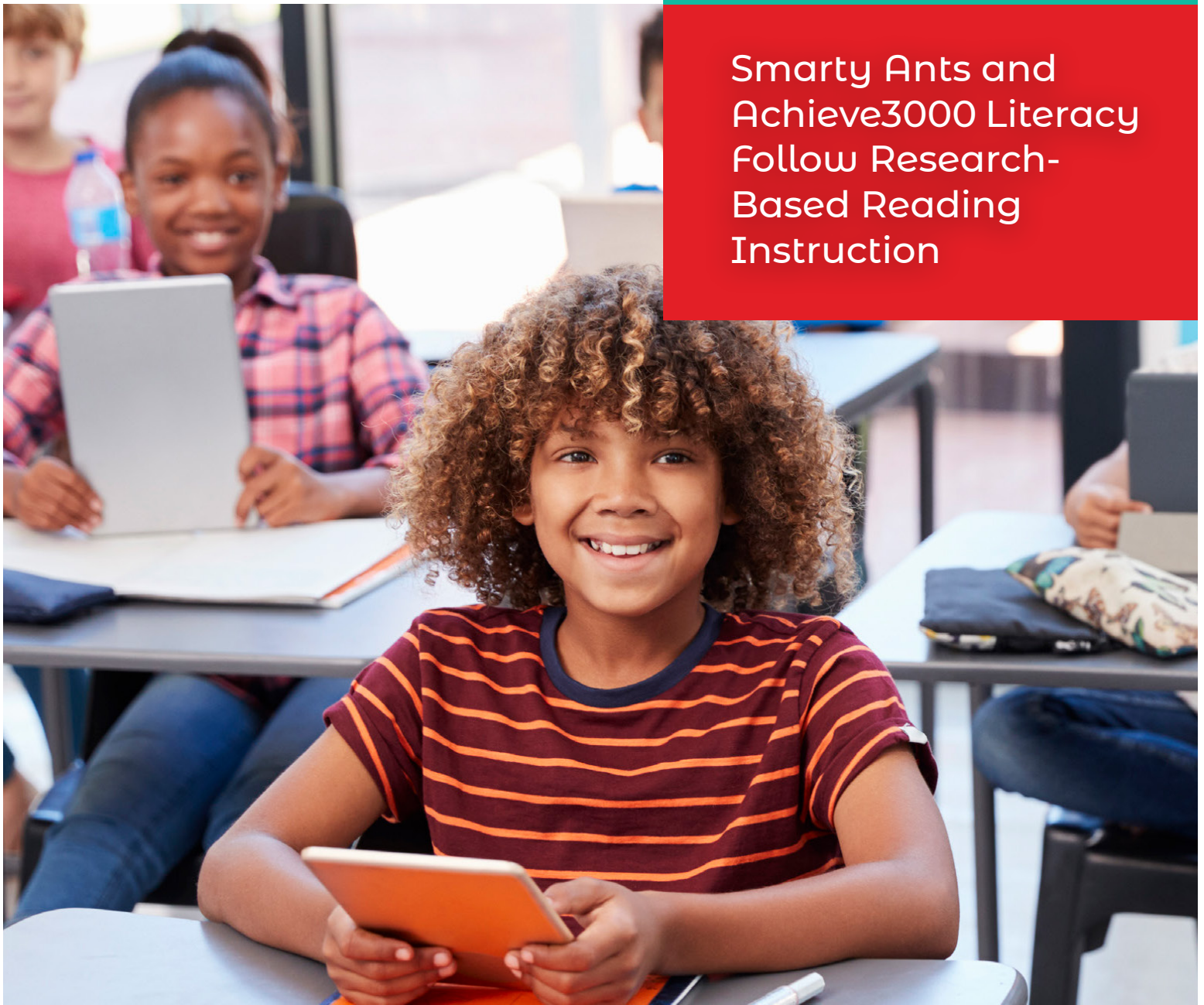




O V E R V I E W

FEBRUARY 2023

Smarty Ants and
Achieve3000 Literacy
Follow Research-
Based Reading
Instruction



McGraw Hill's personalized, adaptive digital literacy solutions *Smarty Ants*® (grades PK-2) and Achieve3000 Literacy™ (grades 2-12) are designed based on the science of reading. Both solutions deliver engaging, relevant, age-appropriate texts at each student's unique reading level to build comprehension and fluency as they also promote reading growth and achievement.

INTRODUCTION

Smarty Ants

Smarty Ants is a comprehensive, highly engaging, multisensory foundational literacy program designed for PreK-2nd grade students to address gaps and build proficiency through systematic, explicit, and scaffolded instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. The program addresses these components by keeping each student in their "zone of proximal development" as they progress and learn to read.

Achieve3000 Literacy

This proven and patented method of Lexile acceleration is based upon decades of scientific research that investigated how learners develop reading and writing skills. The Lesson Routine is the acceleration engine, designed to improve fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension and writing proficiency and to build the literacy capacities students need to be college and career ready. Students also have an opportunity to interact with a grade-level or higher Stretch text.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Phonological awareness is an umbrella term that focuses on both recognizing and manipulating the sounds of spoken language. This includes phonemic awareness, onset-rime, syllabication, and word awareness.

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- Practice phonemic awareness through guided practice activities by identifying pictures that start and end with the target sounds.
- Learn the names and shapes of letters, their primary and secondary sounds, the differences between vowels and consonants, and decoding skills through direct and interactive teaching videos.
- Practice these skills through engaging skill-building games like Four Square, Dog Park Race, Snowboarding and Diving Pool.

Achieve3000 Literacy

- The Word Studio Lesson Collection for Grades 6-12 does include lessons focused on sound differentiation; however, the sounds are connected to printed words, which constitutes phonics instruction.
- Phonological awareness will be part of the new elementary Word Studio Lesson Collection for Grades 2-5 beginning in the fall of the 2023-24 school year, as well as accompanying teacher support material.

PHONICS AND SPELLING

Phonics involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. Teaching children to blend the sounds of letters together helps them decode unfamiliar or unknown words by sounding them out. Children learn to segment words into phonemes and to make words by writing letters for phonemes.

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Through 114 lessons spanning 18 levels, *Smarty Ants* teaches the most important phonics skills needed for effective reading. The phonics component continually reinforces what students have learned about phonological awareness, and then builds on the sound-spelling relationship to decode words. Instruction spirals, constantly referring to previously taught concepts while introducing new sounds and spelling rules as student progress. Program examples include:

- Student pumping the sounds into the letters to better connect and understand the letter image to letter sound relationship
- Words modeled with each sound in a separate bubble, which are then blended to form a single large word bubble as the words are pronounced.
- Practice activities that use sound-spelling cues in a variety of ways. The program provides a variety of engaging game modules students can choose from, like Treadmill and Letter Fetch, which fit all manner of learning temperaments and learning styles.

Achieve3000 Literacy

Through seven Lesson Sets (20 lessons) targeting the greatest areas of need, the phonics portion of the Word Studio Lesson Collection for Grades 6-12 focuses on supporting students who need additional instruction in the foundational literacy areas of phonics and spelling patterns. These lessons are driven by a scope and sequence of increasing challenge for students. Phonics lessons are presented in a Ready-Read-Respond format:

- **Ready:** Students view an instructional video taught by a virtual instructor/coach focused on a key phonics skill.
 - **Guided Practice**—includes written response questions (Instruction—Practice—Check) pertaining to the phonics skill
 - **Independent Practice**—focused on phonics skill presented in instructional video; includes academic, grade-band vocabulary
- **Read:** Students read a high-interest, engaging, age-appropriate article, specifically written to embed the taught phonics skill, including grade-band vocabulary
- **Respond:** Students complete questions focused on reading comprehension and vocabulary. Students are encouraged to apply the skills they have practiced within a piece of text through use of annotation and note-taking.
- **Spelling Inventory & Error Analysis Guide:** Understanding that analyzing spelling errors reveals information about a student's reading skills, this informal assessment is included to help pinpoint a starting point with phonics instruction. The Word Studio Spelling Inventory can be used to plan, track, and assess students' knowledge in each of the essential skills covered in the Word Studio phonics lessons.

Coming Attractions: Phonics and spelling patterns will be part of the new elementary Word Studio Lesson Collection for Grades 2-5 beginning in the fall of the 2023-24 school year, as well as accompanying teacher support material.

VOCABULARY

Reading vocabulary refers to the words we need to know to understand what we read. Writing vocabulary consists of the words we use in writing. Vocabulary plays an important part in learning to read. Beginning readers must use the words they hear orally to make sense of the words they see in print.

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Through skill-building games and activities, students are systematically taught how to build and read approximately 2800 words, building and reading a variety of stories as they progress.

- As students master words, they receive an award. The word is added to the students' word wall in the Reward Room. Students can click the words to hear them segmented and pronounced.
- Students read their words in an engaging, phonics-based illustrated story as a culminating lesson activity. Many are decodable words based on mastered sound-spelling relationships.
- Vocabulary is reinforced through the production of musical story videos and through over 470 learning songs on word building, rhyming and sight word concepts.
- Sight words are taught through explicit instruction throughout the program, with sound bubbles appearing to alert students to and explain the unusual sounds in these special words. The *Smarty Ants* program includes 295 of the top 300 Fry High-Frequency Words.

Achieve3000 Literacy

Students are provided with opportunities to build a robust bank of academic and cross-disciplinary vocabulary through multiple opportunities for interaction. Students expand their vocabulary using context clues and strategies to read and understand complex text across disciplines to become college and career ready.

- Vocabulary terms are differentiated according to Lexile level.
- On-grade level or higher vocabulary is present in the Stretch level of text.
- Vocabulary is reinforced through context-related definitions, the ability to hear the word pronounced, and through multiple exposures in both Lexile level and Stretch versions of the article.
- Students engage in close reading of an article to develop academic vocabulary. Use of highlighting tools and annotation allow for additional interaction with words.
- The Ready, Reflect, and Write steps provide opportunities for student use of vocabulary through writing.
- Robust academic discourse provides students opportunity to use vocabulary through discussion, argument, and debate.
- Teacher Point of Use and Resource Center material offer strategies, activities, and direct instruction lessons for additional vocabulary practice around morphemic and contextual analysis.
- Instructional Supports for Boost Users includes strategies to build word consciousness and academic vocabulary with the Before Reading Poll
- Skills Progression Instruction (synonyms, antonyms, contextual analysis lessons based on Lexile bands)
- Sentence and Paragraph Frames to support both oral and written academic language

Through 10 Lesson Sets (25 lessons) targeting the greatest areas of need, the Word Analysis portion of the Word Studio Lesson Collection for Grades 6-12 focuses on supporting students who require explicit instruction in word analysis strategies. Students break words down into morphemes and syllables to decode and encode words to increase vocabulary comprehension.

Coming Attraction: Word Analysis will be part of the new elementary Word Studio Lesson Collection for Grades 2-5 beginning in the fall of the 2023-24 school year, as well as accompanying teacher support material.



FLUENCY

Fluency, the combination of automaticity and prosody, can be viewed as the bridge between word recognition and reading comprehension. The automaticity component of fluency is the link to word recognition; students must learn to read and understand words not just accurately, but also effortlessly or automatically.

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Reading fluency is an important predictor of reading comprehension. Students are provided opportunities to practice rate, accuracy, and prosody—all key components of fluency.

- The program models reading with fluency and prosody with the Story Game Show, where Authentic Literature titles are read aloud to students while they follow the flow of the words on screen as they are animated.
- Students practice putting “floating” short sentences or phrases (spoken aloud to them) in the correct order using the Storybot and Dogtop game modules to build sentences, stories, and scripts.
- Chunking of phrases transitions students from word calling to reading with a natural pace and rhythm.
- Students are eased into reading and recognizing longer phrases and sentences as they advance from simple stories and skills to more advanced and complex ones.
- Students record each story and script they create, allowing for the practice of fluency and prosody skills. Teachers can review and rate these recordings, tracking missed/troublesome words in each recording for future remediation.

Achieve3000 Literacy

Fluency is an essential component of reading comprehension. Students who can read with automaticity can better focus on gaining meaning from text.

- The Stretch article can be used by teachers during direct instruction as a model to fluently read grade level text.
- The Toolbar Settings allow for access to highlighting, screen masking, dictionary, translation, and audio components to allow for differentiated scaffolding and supports.
- The Read-Aloud features provides a model of fluent reading for students, with highlighting activated for ease of tracking what is read.

COMPREHENSION

Comprehension is the understanding and interpretation of what is read. To be able to accurately understand written material, children need to be able to (1) decode what they read; (2) make connections between what they read and what they already know; and (3) think deeply about what they have read.

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Students practice comprehension skills throughout the program. This happens in the lesson check for the story building lessons of levels 3-11 and in the Fiction and Science lessons in the second-grade curriculum of levels 12-18. The Story Game Show is the other module students use for exploring the early reading comprehension skills that include the ability to recall, sequence, predict and summarize.

- Story Game Show—students practice metacognitive strategies using text and illustrations to answer questions about what they have had read aloud to them.
- Lesson Check activities at the end of each story building lesson ask students questions about the story they have built, and they must find the answers in the text of the stories.
- Both the fiction and science lessons of the second-grade curriculum include yes/no or true/false questions as students read the passages and have four comprehension questions at the end of each passage.
- The nine science lessons have an additional Summary mode in which student work to summarize the lesson passage to identify the main concepts introduced about the topic being explored.

Achieve3000 Literacy

Student practice comprehension skills throughout every step of the program. Whether engaged in a 5-Step Lesson, Scoop Article (discussion), Article + Activity, etc., lessons are designed to support comprehension and higher-level thinking skills.

- The **Ready Step**: This prepares students for the lesson topics by providing opportunities to make connections and activate relevant background knowledge, essential to supporting comprehension.
- The **Read Step**: Students read the same grade-appropriate, standards-aligned relevant, real-world topic—adjusted to each student’s Lexile level.
- Highlighting and annotation tools are built in to foster close-reading techniques (ex. identifying key details, central idea, vocabulary, evidence of text structures, inference, confusing areas, etc.)
- The **Respond Step**: Students demonstrate high-level cognitive thinking to answer standards-aligned comprehension questions (Key Cognitive Targets identified by NAEP 2019 as central to constructing meaning: locate and recall, integrate and interpret, critique and evaluate).
- The **Reflection Step**: Students revisit the information presented in the Ready Step to determine if their opinions or thoughts have changed now that they have read for information.
- The **Write Step**: This helps students comprehend and critique to develop higher-order thinking to respond beyond the text.
- The **Stretch Article and Teacher Direct Instruction**: Students practice higher level thinking and comprehension strategies with grade level text, including classroom discussion and debate—an essential component of reading comprehension. Educators are provided with Point of Use and Resource Center teaching material, including Strategy Lessons, to facilitate metacognitive processes to help students comprehend what they read.

- The Toolbar Settings allow for access to highlighting, screen masking, dictionary, translation, and audio components to allow for differentiated scaffolding and supports.

Through nine Lesson Sets (26 lessons) targeting the greatest areas of need, the Reading Comprehension portion of the Word Studio Lesson Collection for Grades 6-12 focuses on supporting students who require explicit instruction in reading comprehension skills and strategies. Students practice explicit lessons on: Citing Evidence, Context Clues, Main Idea & Details, Making Inferences, Making Predictions, Monitoring Comprehension, Previewing Text, Summarizing, Text Structure

Coming Attraction: Reading Comprehension will be part of the new elementary Word Studio Lesson Collection for Grades 2-5 beginning in the fall of the 2023-24 school year, as well as accompanying teacher support material.

For more information, call 800-838-8771 or visit [achieve3000.com](https://www.achieve3000.com).