Building a foundation for reading and spelling: A multisensory structured literacy approach

Grades K–3

Thoroughly teaches the Foundational Skills of states’ rigorous college- and career-readiness standards
Fundations® stands out for its thorough teaching of foundational skills using a research-based structured literacy approach. Its instructional design is supported by scientific research and informed by 30+ years of working with students, including those with dyslexia.

**Fundations® Implementation**

Fundations provides a systematic program to comprehensively address foundational skills, spelling, and handwriting with a carefully scaffolded sequence that is taught to mastery across four Levels (K-3). Additionally, it reinforces vocabulary and comprehension strategies. The power of the 30-minute daily lesson is that it teaches and reinforces skills in a highly integrated approach using engaging multisensory activities. Fundations is designed to be combined with a literature-based language arts program.

**Prevention Model (Tier 1)**

Instruction is delivered to *all students* in the general education K-3 classroom for 30 minutes daily. Pre-K instruction (approximately 10-15 minutes) provides an introduction to letter-sound and writing skills that will be taught to mastery in Level K and built upon in subsequent Levels.

**Early Intervention Model (Tier 2)**

Instruction is provided to *at-risk students* in need of *strategic* intervention and is conducted in a small-group setting by the classroom teacher and/or interventionist.

- If Fundations is already provided in a Tier 1, whole-class setting, this strategic intervention consists of intervention lessons for an additional 30 minutes, three to five times per week.
- If Fundations is not provided in a Tier 1, whole-class setting, this strategic intervention must include the daily standard lesson, plus an additional intervention lesson three to five times per week.

**Fundations Provides a Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS)**

Fundations can be part of a multi-tiered literacy solution, including a literature-based language arts program in grades K-3, and Wilson Reading System®, an intensive intervention program.
Building a Foundation for Reading and Spelling

Fundations® presents skills sequentially and cumulatively:

Pre-K Level K Level 1 Level 2 Level 3

Comprehensive Materials for Teachers and Students

**Teacher Materials:** The Teacher’s Kit provides a Teacher’s Manual with explicit and easy-to-follow daily learning plans, a quick-glance for the day’s activities and procedures, extensive resource of controlled text, and lists of materials to be used by the teacher and school. Learning activities include guidelines for differentiated instruction for advanced and struggling students. Extensive support materials are used to demonstrate the concepts using visual and kinesthetic strategies. A Home Support Pack encourages family involvement.

**Student Materials:** Student manipulatives provide multisensory, interactive opportunities that engage students in the “fun” of building a foundation. Kits include Dry Erase Writing Tablets, Letter Tiles and Letter Boards, Student Notebooks, Student Composition Books, and Desk Strips.

Implementation Support and Teacher Professional Learning

Wilson works collaboratively with districts to improve student outcomes by fully implementing Fundations with increasing fidelity.

The online Learning Community and the FUN HUB™ provide teachers with video demonstrations, resources, tips, and digital teacher tools.

Available immediately upon purchase of the Teacher’s Kit, integrated support includes the detailed Teacher’s Manual to guide daily instruction, formative assessments, Home Support letters and information, and access to the companion online learning community containing extensive resources such as video demonstrations and animations, numerous printable resources, lesson plan templates, expert tips, assessment trackers, discussion boards, and more. For intervention teachers, the learning community also offers specific intervention resources. Pre-K teachers have their own distinct resource community.

Wilson also recommends the Level-specific Fundations Launch Workshop, Fundations Intervention Workshops, and either Virtual Implementation Support with tiered offerings or the development of a demonstration school with on-site coaching. To help districts build staff capacity to move toward fidelity and sustainability, Wilson offers Facilitator Certification and Presenter Development training.

To learn more about Wilson Professional Learning, visit www.wilsonlanguage.com.

Schools and districts may contact the Education team at 800.899.8454 to develop a comprehensive plan for success and sustainability.
Teach the Critical Foundational Skills Necessary for Reading and Spelling

Fundations® is a multisensory, structured literacy program delivered to general education classrooms in 30-minute daily lessons. This is appropriate when the core language arts program does not present a systematic, synthetic phonics approach. Fundations is designed to be used with existing literature-based reading instruction to provide a comprehensive language arts program.

Phonemic Awareness
Students identify and isolate sounds of spoken words, segment phonemes in words, and blend phonemes into words. Phoneme substitution, addition, and manipulation activities are first done orally and then with letter cards and tiles to assist with cognitive reinforcement. The Wilson® tapping procedure for blending and segmenting of phonemes is used.

Phonics and Word Study
Letter-sound knowledge is taught to automaticity to enhance word recognition. Students are explicitly and systematically taught word structure following the six syllable types. Students learn high frequency sight words during Trick Word learning activities.

Vocabulary Development
Targeted vocabulary is introduced and practiced during Word of the Day, Word Talk, Dictation, and Word Play activities for phonetically regular words. Students develop a personal resource dictionary in their Student Notebooks. Students practice these words with repeated and multiple exposures.

Reading Fluency
Fluency Kits include repeated reading practice using controlled text (95-100% decodable). There are controlled sound drills, wordlists, phrases, and stories for each Unit. Teachers model fluency and students learn prosody with a specific phrasing technique. Fundations Stories Set 1 and Books to Remember Sets 1 and 2 can be used for further fluency practice. Also, Geodes® (published by Great Minds® in association with Wilson Language Training®) provide accessible, knowledge-building texts for emerging and developing readers’ application of decoding skills and align to Fundations Scope and Sequence.

Comprehension Strategies
Fundations is designed to be combined with more formalized literature instruction. However, during Storytime, students learn prosody, visualization skills, incorporating pictures for retelling stories, and apply speaking and listening skills.

Foundational Writing Skills: Spelling and Handwriting
Students learn letter formation and how to write clear, legible manuscript and cursive handwriting. Encoding is taught in correspondence to decoding patterns. From the beginning, students systematically learn punctuation, capitalization, and proofreading skills.

Learn more about the Fundations® Program at www.fundations.com