

Elementary Reading Programs

The Elementary DI reading program consists of six programs. Reading Mastery I and II reach children to read. Reading Mastery III and IV teach children to learn history, geography and science from text. Reading Mastery V and VI teach children to analyze Literature.

Some students are in **Fast Cycle** or **Horizons** reading programs. These are the same as the Reading Mastery programs, except that they move twice as fast. Students in Fast Cycle I complete all the material in Reading Mastery I in about half a year. Similarly, Fast Cycle II and Horizons III and IV cover all of the material in Reading Mastery II, III and IV, in about half the number of lessons. To understand what your child is learning in these programs, you will need to look at the description for the corresponding Reading Mastery program and double the lesson number for your child's group. For example, if your child is in Fast Cycle II, Lesson 30, you should look at Reading Mastery II, Lesson 60, to get an idea of what is being taught.

“What did you learn in school today?” Information for Parents

Reading Mastery IV
Harder Vocabulary, Science and Social Studies Facts

In RM IV students continue to work on reading faster, with fewer mistakes. Each lesson starts with word lists for students to read out loud. These lists usually include new words, along with some practice words. Teachers also define the new words and require students to show that they understand them.

Every fifth lesson, teachers check student progress using a timed test. To pass, each child must read 100 words in one minute or less, with no more than two mistakes.

By reading stories and short information passages, students learn facts about three main areas: *places, common materials found in the environment, and people.*

Facts about places

Students learn about Australia, the solar system, Tokyo, Africa and other places. They learn about the physical features of each place, such as mountains and ice floes. They also learn about some of the animals that live in each place.

Facts about common materials

Students learn scientific rules about materials such as water, air, snowflakes, clouds and the sun. For example, they learn that clouds are made up of tiny drops of water.

Facts about people

These facts are divided into two types: facts about the human body, and facts about characters. Students learn about bones, muscles, blood vessels and other body systems. By the end of the program, they know more about the body than many adults.

They also learn about characters in the stories they read. Based on what they read, they predict what a character will do next. In this way, students begin to build skills they will use for understanding literature.

Most students enjoy reading the stories and facts, so they are motivated to work hard. Another motivation comes from the program’s point system. Teachers award points for good work in reading out loud, doing workbook pages and other activities. Also, after every tenth lesson, the class plays a fact game, where students win points for remembering facts.

Here are some vocabulary words and topics taught in RM IV. By the time your child has reached the lesson indicated, he can read the vocabulary word and tell you something about the topic the class is studying.

By now:	Your child can read this word:	And tell you something about this topic:
Lesson 5	terrible	Kangaroos
Lesson 10	shabby	Canada
Lesson 20	shoulder	Eskimos, how the Earth's movement causes seasons, Alaskan animals
Lesson 30	knives	Clouds, dinosaurs and whirlpools
Lesson 40	occasionally	Volcanoes and earthquakes
Lesson 50	coughed	Inventors, how an electric eye works
Lesson 60	kindergarten	How inventions are marketed, the solar system
Lesson 70	fastened	Gravity, the planet Jupiter, Jupiter's moon Io
Lesson 80	vehicle	Muscles, how to train animals
Lesson 90	whistled	More about how to train animals
Lesson 100	curve	Magnifying glasses, eyes, water pressure, scuba diving, how light is reflected
Lesson 110	molecule	Speed, states of matter, planets
Lesson 120	vibrate	Crystals, molecules, stars
Lesson 130	cerebrum	Galaxies, bones, muscles, the brain, blood vessels
Lesson 140	absolutely	The North and South Poles, cameras, African animals