

I have been using Smart Start in Language Arts for 6 years in my grade one classroom with excellent results. This resource provides structure, continuity and excellent learning strategies in all areas of the language arts program. It builds on concepts already taught and provides much repetition.

I love the fact that the reading component of the Smart Start program has the children developing decoding and word attack skills as well as providing them with a strong sight word base. I have found that by the end of the year, my students are reading above grade level. They have experienced great success in their reading and therefore have become independent readers who do not shy away from more difficult reading material.

I have also used the spelling and writing component which complements the reading program. I have found that by using the strategies in Smart Start, Sequence Stories, and Writing with Results, the children grow from writing simple sentences to detailed stories. This skill transfers to all subject areas.

I have used a variety of reading programs and resources throughout my years of teaching. I feel that if a child can read well, many other doors are opened ("the sky's the limit"). Using the Smart Start program, in my opinion, has done just that. My students experience great success and a love for reading. I will continue to use this resource as my core language arts program for as long as I teach lower elementary.

Sincerely,
Herma Groeneveld
Grade one teacher
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