

HEROES

Helping Early Readers Obtain Excellence in Special Education

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SUMMARY

The project will create an intervention to benefit thousands of children between the ages of 6 and 9 who have been placed in special education for literacy instruction. The new intervention will shine a light on the best approach to get children reading and much better prepared for life.

The key research question is:

At the end of one year of the intervention, do students with diagnosed learning disabilities in reading who receive the instructional model have greater literacy skills compared to control students who receive the business-as-usual special education services?

IMPACT/PROGRAM DETAILS

Based on strong literacy theory, the lessons will emphasize five skills critical to beginning readers:

- Identify letters
- Understand phonemics (the sounds of letters and speech)
- Recognize words
- Gain fluency in reading
- Decode the meaning of text

Special education teachers will be trained in one-to-one literacy tutoring. Lesson format includes:

- Reading new books
- Writing short messages
- Word work
- Fluent reading

Coaches will teach the courses, preparing special education teachers to deliver the lessons to the children.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

- between the ages of 6 and 9
- having the greatest difficulty with beginning reading
- identified as learning disabled
- have IEPs that identify progress in reading as a goal
- identified as needing special education services for reading
- working with an alternative reading program from the one in their classroom
- are at least one grade level behind their age peers in reading achievement
- are at a beginning reading stage

Year 1 Impact

Ohio Word Test	.55*
Text Reading Level	.52*
OSELA Total Score	.44*
Slosson Oral Reading Test	.38*
Writing Vocabulary	.38*
Hearing and Recording Sounds	.31
Letter Identification	.29
Concepts About Print	.21

All treatment effect estimates were positive and most were statistically significant ($p < .05$)

OHIO STATE COLLEGES/UNITS INVOLVED

i3 Development Project of The Ohio State University

College of Education and Human Ecology

Special education teachers will receive:

- six graduate credit hours
- levels books and instructional materials
- specialized training in one-to-one literacy tutoring

Districts will provide:

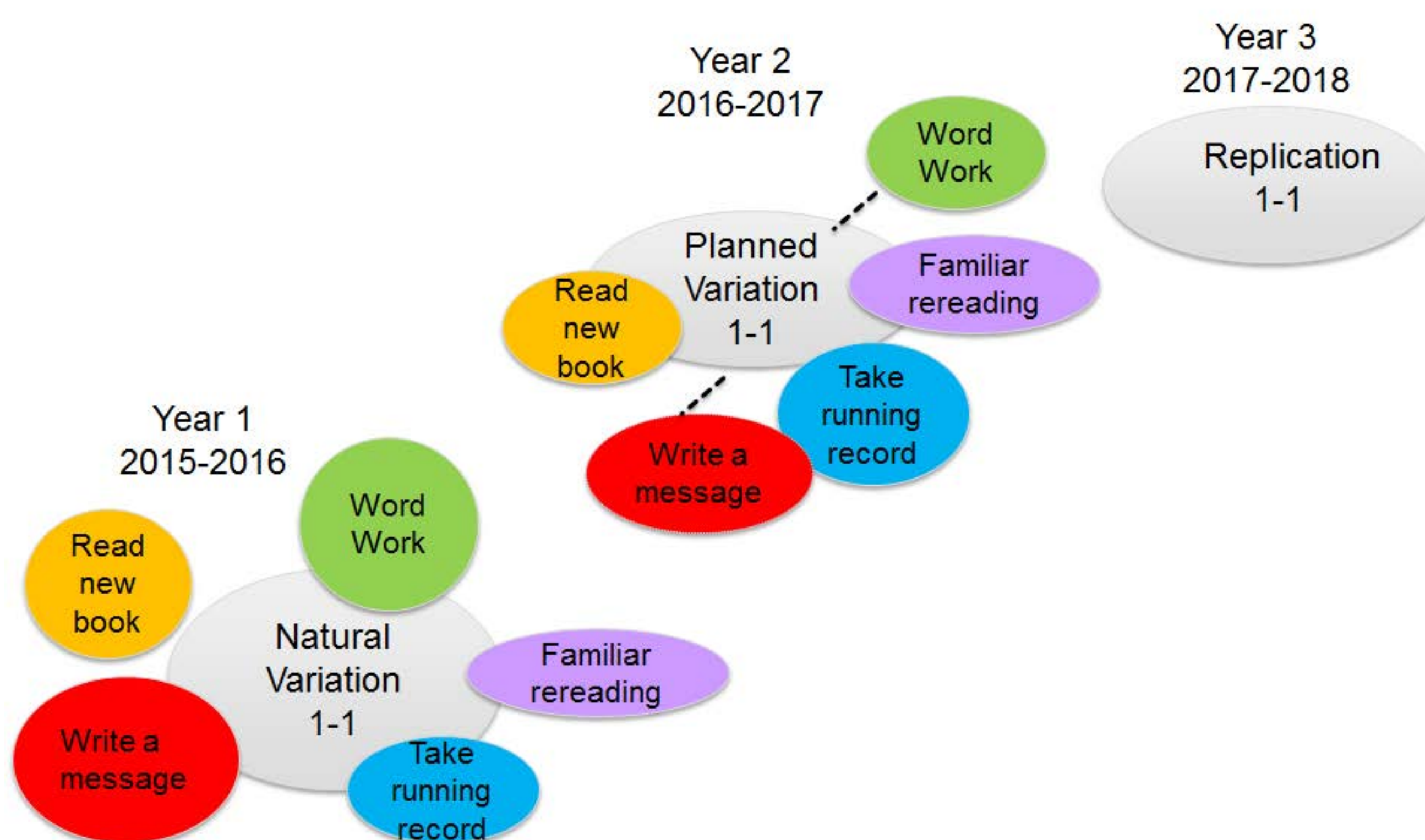
- 2 to 4 eligible students per teacher
- minimum of 3 one-to-one lessons per week, for 10-45 minutes with each student
- entry and exit assessments and weekly progress monitoring data collection

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Development of Lesson Format



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
AND HUMAN ECOLOGY