

Reading Companion

What is it?

Reading Companion is a web-based literacy tool. It allows registered users to access a library of more than 100 e-books. The program then “reads” with the student. The student hears sentences, and then repeats them. Using voice recognition, the program then evaluates the student’s reading. Reports on each student’s progress are available to each teacher.

What do I need?

Reading Companion requires:

- Windows 2000 or Windows XP
- A high-speed Internet connection (DSL or higher)
- Audio capabilities
- Access to the Internet via Internet Explorer (version 6 or higher)
- Headset microphones

What do I have to do?

First, you should contact your program director to set up a teacher account. Although there are many possible actions with a teacher account, the three listed below will be the only ones you will need to use most frequently. More detailed instructions on these and all other actions can be found in the Computer Lab Manual in the “Reading Companion Training Materials: Tools for Teachers” or on the Reading Companion website in the “Training” section of your teacher account.

To register a student:

1. Go to the website www.readingcompanion.org
2. Sign in with the appropriate username and password. Click on the “My Classrooms” link.
3. Make sure you have at least one classroom. If you do not have a classroom, go back to “My Classrooms” and “Add a Classroom” first.
4. Click on “Manage Students” on the bottom right.
5. Click on the “Add Student” link near the top.
6. Fill out the required fields, then click the “save” button.

To Access Student Performance Records:

1. Go to the website www.readingcompanion.org and sign in.
2. Click on the “My Classrooms” link
3. Click on the “Student Performance” link on the bottom right.
4. Select the student’s name from the dropdown menu and click the “View Report” button.

To Review a Book:

1. Go to the website www.readingcompanion.org and sign in
2. Click on the “My Classrooms” link.
3. Click on the “Manage Books” link.
4. Click the “Review” link next to the book you want to review.
5. Complete the form and click the “Save” button. Please note that this review can be viewed by all other participants in the grant program.

Other Considerations:

- The program **cannot** be run on Macs
- It is web-based, so it can be used anywhere but it requires an initial download from the website.
- An “Easy Sign-In” option can be selected, which allows students to choose their name from a drop down list instead of entering their username and password each time
- An extension called “Book Builder” is also available; teachers and students can create their own e-books which will be published for all the grant participants to use. See Program Director for details.