

What Works Clearinghouse



Wilson Reading System®

Effectiveness¹ No studies of the *Wilson Reading System*® that fall within the scope of the Students with Learning Disabilities review protocol meet What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) evidence standards. The lack of studies meeting WWC evidence standards means that, at this time, the WWC is unable to draw any conclusions based on research about the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the *Wilson Reading System*® on students with learning disabilities.

Program Description²

The *Wilson Reading System*® is a reading and writing program developed by Barbara Wilson and distributed by Wilson Language Training.³ It provides a curriculum for teaching reading and spelling to individuals of any age who have difficulty with written language. The *Wilson Reading System*® directly teaches the structure of words in the English language, aiming to help students learn the coding system for reading and spelling. The

program provides interactive lesson plans and uses a sequential system with extensive controlled text. The *Wilson Reading System*® is structured to progress from phoneme segmentation to more challenging tasks, and seeks to improve sight word knowledge, fluency, vocabulary, oral expressive language development, and reading comprehension.

1. The studies in this report were reviewed using WWC Evidence Standards, Version 2.0 (see the WWC Procedures and Standards Handbook, Chapter III), as described in protocol Version 2.0.
2. The descriptive information for this program was obtained from a publicly available source: the program's website (<http://www.wilsonlanguage.com>, downloaded November 2009). The WWC requests developers to review the program description sections for accuracy from their perspective. Further verification of the accuracy of the descriptive information for this program is beyond the scope of this review. The literature search reflects documents publicly available by November 2009.
3. The *Wilson Reading System*® is one of many curricula that are based, in part, on the principles of the sequential, multisensory Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching reading. Other WWC intervention reports related to the multisensory Orton-Gillingham approach include *Barton Reading & Spelling System*®, *Foundations*®, *Herman Method*™, *Orton-Gillingham-based Strategies (Unbranded)*, *Alphabetic Phonics*, *Project Read*®, and *Dyslexia Training Program*.