

Benchmark Reading Programs

Specialized Educational Services, Inc. is using Benchmark Reading Programs to improve decoding and spelling skills for students at the following High Road Schools:

High Road Student Learning Center
(Lower-Intermediate/Upper)

High Road School of Wallingford
(Primary-Middle/High School)

High Road School of Norwalk
(Norwalk/Waterbury)

High Road School of Wallingford Hartford Campus

The Benchmark Reading Programs were developed at Benchmark School in Media, Pennsylvania. This school was founded in 1970 by Dr. Irene Gaskins as a research-based lab for struggling readers. Word Detectives, which is one of the Benchmark Programs, is a research-based decoding and spelling series for students in grades one through eight that teaches decoding by analogy and letter-sound decoding.

Educators at Specialized Educational Services, Inc. use Benchmark's Word Detectives series, which consists of five multilevel programs for various levels of reading proficiency

Beginning Readers is for struggling readers or non-readers in 1st through 3rd grade.

- phonemic awareness
- concept of word
- decoding using Key Words
- comprehension monitoring
- word analysis

Transition Reading is for 2nd through 5th graders and reinforces skills taught in Beginning program.

- decoding strategies
- spelling patterns and strategies
- dividing words into chunks
- comprehension monitoring
- word analysis

Intermediate A is for students in 3rd through 5th grade who have completed the Transition program.

- spelling strategies for high frequency, sophisticated, multichunk words
- strategic application of word-solving - methods
- sorting words by patterns and endings
- comprehension monitoring
- word analysis

Intermediate B is a more sophisticated version of Intermediate A, for use in grades 4 through 6

- decoding and spelling strategies for high-frequency, sophisticated, multichunk words
- strategic applications of word-solving methods
- word segmentation (chunking)
- spelling conscience
- comprehension monitoring
- word analysis

Introductory Word Detectives for Fifth Grade and Above is for older struggling readers with decoding and spelling difficulties.

- comprehension monitoring by writing summaries
- phonemic awareness and phonics
- strategic applications of word-solving methods
- content-area reading
- analogy approach to decoding using Key Words
- word analysis
- self-assessment
- spelling strategies for high-frequency, sophisticated multichunk words

