

Express Readers is an entirely teacher-created program, and to that end, we will continue to grow and enhance our program to meet the needs of all of our teachers and students, with the same devotion as we do for our classrooms and the children who count on us.

EdReports has given us a remarkable opportunity to learn from teams of teachers and reviewers which aspects of our program can be enhanced to deliver a more comprehensive program, providing all students with strong foundational skills.

Although we value the review and consider the main content fair and accurate, we do differ on two components of their analysis.

1) Centers in our programs are not designed to be optional; they are *schedule flexible* to fit the needs of the range of scheduling options that teachers and schools face across districts and different school requirements. EdReports states that "centers are supplemental and optional, so students might not have the opportunity to participate in these activities" and in doing so, much of our vital curriculum has been deemed as optional. On that note, we do understand that if the reviewers at EdReports considered centers as optional from examining our manuals, we need to be more direct in our language. We will be restructuring our materials to help teachers using the curriculum understand the requirements for planning.

2) The teachers at Express Readers believe that it is unrealistic to require all students in a class to meet the grade-level requirements, as no real classroom has students 100% at grade level. In doing so, we ignore the needs of students, setting them up for failure. We endeavor to provide teachers with a spectrum of materials to meet the needs of each level of learner; We created an inclusive program to keep teachers from needing to search for materials to support a portion of their classes. Express Readers maintains the goal of guiding and instructing all students to reach mastery in foundational skills and reading by the end of 2nd grade. However, we have taken this portion of the review as a prompt in how to better guide instruction by attending to "intervention," all while including intervention materials as part of our current curriculum (not as a separate program needing to be purchased).

By March 2021, we will have the updated Edition 4 of our curriculum which uses the EdReports as a map and a checklist to ensure we have strongly covered all skills and requirements needed. Express Readers has already integrated a more comprehensive phonemic awareness course into our program and are making these lessons, activities, and information available to all of our current schools on our digital platform.

We strive to make curriculum for the classrooms we have now, not just the classrooms we hope to have. We believe that every child deserves to learn to read, and we thank EdReports for advising curriculums/programs, like ours, to reach that goal. We are intensely proud of the work we have done, every teacher who has been involved, and all of the success our students have seen.

As always, Express Readers works WITH teachers to provide the best possible materials and instruction. We continue to integrate the vast amounts of research into engaging lessons and teacher-friendly resources. Express Readers continues to engage students and foster a deep love for reading