

Think in English.
Speak in English.
Thrive in English.



What is GrapeSEED?

GrapeSEED is a research-aligned curriculum that follows the principles of Natural Language Acquisition. Our goal is to help students who are new to the United States and students in preschool through second grade build English oral language and critical listening skills. Designed to meet the specific needs of the multilingual English Language Learner, GrapeSEED helps students gain confidence and English fluency by using the continual language acquisition processes of exposure, comprehension, use, and reinforcement.

GrapeSEED's all-inclusive, curriculum uses a controlled vocabulary to develop oral fluency and proficiency, while providing students with all the skills to develop basic reading fluency, writing awareness and readiness, and writing skills.



Why GrapeSEED?

Tens of thousands of students around the world recognize the benefits of the uniquely designed components and characteristics of GrapeSEED. The curriculum differentiates itself from other English Oral Language programs by using:

- The **FUNCTIONAL-NOTIONAL** approach, focusing on how language is used (functions) and the ideas it communicates (notions) to help children acquire language that is useful and practical for engaging in conversation with others.
- An **INNOVATIVE** controlled vocabulary and vertical phonics-based approach that speeds English language development.
- A **MULTI-MODAL CURRICULUM** that builds language proficiency through a multi-sensory approach, ensuring a high level of student engagement.
- **DIVERSE TEACHING METHODS** to prioritize and teach targeted language functions needed for successful speaking and natural communication.
- **All-inclusive TEACHER SUPPORT**, including: comprehensive teacher and classroom materials, professional development, and dedicated implementation support, all of which focus on ensuring student success.

GrapeSEED Methodology

Most English oral language programs focus on grammatical structures, substitutions and explanations requiring students to memorize numerous sets of rules, words, and sentence structures regardless of their practical application. GrapeSEED focuses on relevant vocabulary, useful language functions, learning with comprehension and practical utilization of concepts and language, thus providing students with all the tools needed to develop their English skills.

Following the key principles of Natural Language Acquisition, GrapeSEED students learn to hear and recognize English speech—and to process and speak their thoughts—without having to first think in, and then interpret from, their heritage or first language. By making English acquisition meaningful and useful for children engaging in conversation with others, GrapeSEED makes learning interesting- children want to learn. By teaching English in the way that children naturally acquire language (through continuous exposure), GrapeSEED instills motivation and children quickly build fluency.

The GrapeSEED curriculum is based on decades of experience combined with substantial research into the Functional-Notional Approach. It utilizes a controlled, progressive introduction of high-frequency words and language functions that are thoroughly integrated into the curriculum with systematic review and reinforcement. GrapeSEED equips students with the skills necessary for complete communicative proficiency—understanding, speaking, reading, and writing.

As students progress through the language acquisition process, they listen to the expressions of language and associate sound with its function. Students begin to mimic sounds until they learn to reproduce the most basic of necessary functions. Therefore, the more students hear language functions (receptivity) and the more they use language functions (expression), the easier and faster they retrieve each language function (fluency) and communicate with known “notions” (discourse).

To bridge the divide between oral communication skills and language arts, reading and writing becomes critical. GrapeSEED is a meaning-based curriculum whose first goal for children is comprehension. With GrapeSEED, children also learn to hear when language sounds correct and when it doesn't, allowing multiple avenues for self-monitoring. GrapeSEED uses a phonics system called ‘vertical phonics’, giving students tools to encode and decode words. Students learn to associate phonograms with the sounds they make, and then to read and spell by assembling and disassembling phonograms. In GrapeSEED, writing progresses from readiness to assembly and spelling, to basic sentence practice, to composing sentences.



GrapeSEED Framework

GrapeSEED is organized into 15 units utilizing a variety of original teaching components. Using a Teacher Student Interaction delivery method, teachers use engaging, child-friendly instructional components including Action Activities, Vocabulary Picture Cards, Phonogram Cards, and a rich mix of Songs and Stories. After a specific number of 30-40-minute class periods, students move to the next unit. The power of the GrapeSEED curriculum is its comprehensive, built-in method of systematic exposure, review, and reinforcement, resulting in success for all learners.



Examples of Knowledge and Skills Acquired through GrapeSEED

Listening/Responding for Specific Purposes

The student learns to listen attentively to a variety of speakers including teachers, peers, and electronic media and engages actively in a variety of oral language experiences to gain an increasing level of comprehension and aural skills. The student is expected to:

- Distinguish and produce certain English sounds, words, and greetings.
- Listen for different purposes (functions) such as to get information, solve problems, enjoy, and appreciate.
- Infer meaning by associating words with actions and pictures.
- Understand information given or questions asked by others.

Language Acquisition: Speaking for Communication

The student speaks in a variety of modes, to different audiences, and for a variety of purposes using developmental vocabulary with increasing fluency and accuracy. The student is expected to:

- Engage in activities and discussions that demonstrate basic communication and language acquisition skills.
- Initiate conversation by employing newly acquired vocabulary and concepts (notions).
- Choose and adapt spoken language appropriate to the audience, purpose, and occasion.
- Gain increasing accuracy and appropriate word choice when speaking, such as subject-verb agreement.

Reading: Phonics, Vocabulary Development, and Comprehension

The student demonstrates the use of phonics and increasing vocabulary development while using a variety of strategies to comprehend and generate questions about selections read aloud. The student is expected to:

- Use knowledge of phonics to decode familiar English words.
- Develop vocabulary through meaningful exercises and concrete experiences.
- Develop comprehension by listening to and discussing both familiar and conceptually challenging selections that are read aloud.

Writing Readiness and Skill Development

The student develops the foundations of writing. The student is expected to:

- Learn to air write letters and numbers.
- Write each letter of the alphabet and demonstrate increasing control of penmanship.
- Write sentences dictated by the teacher.
- Compose and write sentences.

Professional Development and Support

GrapeSEED's Professional Learning Specialists work with teachers and administrators to ensure proven efficacy and maximum results in the classroom. Video-based training courses cover the theories and design that are foundational to GrapeSEED and 'how to teach' the key components of the GrapeSEED curriculum. The initial and on-going training and support is designed to prepare and assist teachers on their journey to student success. In addition, on-demand video-based webinars and courses cover an array of topics to enhance and support the GrapeSEED teaching experience.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Foundation Training

Completed before teaching GrapeSEED lessons, Foundation Training prepares teachers to use the GrapeSEED curriculum and provides the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to effectively use the materials. Teachers attend Foundation Training virtually, via Zoom before they begin teaching the curriculum.



IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Teacher Support

Teacher support is focused on implementing the GrapeSEED curriculum with fidelity to ensure student success. Virtual support could include classroom observations focused on identifying areas of success and growth, 1-on-1 coaching sessions, co-teaching, and/or providing a professional learning session for teachers on an agreed upon, specific aspect of implementing the GrapeSEED curriculum.

Self-Reflection Video Analysis

Teachers video record themselves teaching a GrapeSEED lesson and complete a self-reflection video analysis. They then meet with a GrapeSEED Professional Learning Specialist who provides feedback on how to enhance implementation fidelity and effectiveness for increased student success.

Professional Development

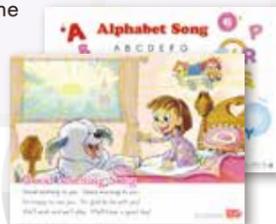
Teachers have unlimited access to a comprehensive video library and online courses that serve as professional development resources focused on implementing the GrapeSEED curriculum. Topics include GrapeSEED Materials and Effective Teaching Examples modules and the Master Teacher series.

Curriculum Core Components

The GrapeSEED curriculum integrates vocabulary and language expressions through Songs, Action Activities, Chants, Poems, and Stories to ensure efficient learning. It balances new information with systematic review of previously covered information, providing practice and repetition that leads to fluency. Additionally, the GrapeSEED Repeated Exposure and Practice (REP) provides practice opportunities, deepening students' comprehension.

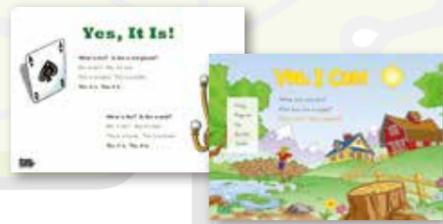
Songs

Because learning and singing songs is easy and fun for most students, they are an effective way to teach new vocabulary and language expressions. All Songs are designed to introduce and reinforce vocabulary and language functions within the learning objectives. When combined with pictures and natural gestures, students' understanding of the new concepts will increase when they hear the same or similar phrases repeated in other contexts.



Chants

Chants contain most of the critical expressions necessary for communicating in English and provide a natural context for learning most language functions. Chants are designed to be learned in the same style as speaking in regular conversation, thus helping students avoid speaking in an awkward monotone.



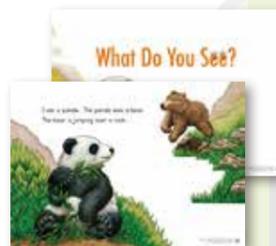
Action Activities

Designed to introduce and reinforce vocabulary words and language functions, Action Activities teach specific actions with a physical response—the principle behind Total Physical Response (TPR). By requiring this response, Action Activities help students to begin thinking in English, and they can respond physically to English before their verbal abilities have developed.



Stories & Story Dictionaries

Stories provide an opportunity for daily repetition and expanding students' vocabulary and language functions with different types of sentence structures. Each Unit also includes a Story Dictionary, which reviews and reinforces the vocabulary words and the language functions learned in the previous Unit. Reading Stories facilitates opportunities for discussion and comprehension questions that build students' communicative ability and improves confidence.



Phonogram Cards

Learning phonograms and understanding how they come together to make words lays the foundation for future reading skills. Phonogram Cards provide opportunities to focus on the sounds of the English language. Students are expected to air write and to learn the stroke order, name, and sound of each letter of the alphabet.



A typical GrapeSEED Unit includes:

- 3-4 Songs
- 1-2 Chants
- 2-4 Action Activities
- 3 Stories
- 1 Story Dictionary
- Phonogram Cards
- Vocabulary Picture Cards
- 2-3 Shared Reading Poems
- 1-2 Shared Reading Big Books
- 1 Writer
- 1 Student App

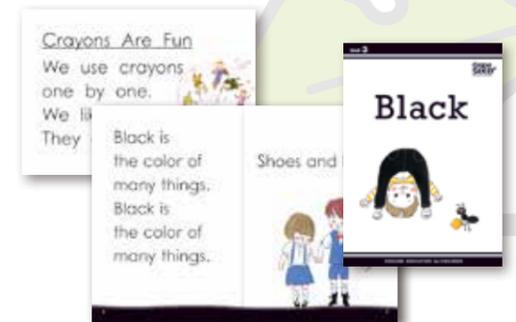
Vocabulary Picture Cards

Vocabulary Picture Cards are important for teaching new vocabulary words and make it easy to learn the meaning of nouns, adjectives, and opposites. Picture Cards also allow for quick assessment of student progress on proper pronunciation and natural intonation.



Shared Reading: Poems & Big Books

Shared Reading teaches phonics principles, such as phoneme and phonogram awareness, as well as the concepts of print. Poems introduce a new letter, and teach the student to hear and recognize a specific sound at the beginning, middle, and end of words. Big Books foster students' awareness of phonics principles, proper pronunciation, and natural expression, while also teaching high frequency words, basic vocabulary words, and concepts of print.



Writers

Writers are used to teach students how to write simple, phonetically-decodable words by assembling two or more phonograms. By saying the words as they write them, students also learn to instantly recognize the words, helping them become more fluent readers as well as writers.



Repeated Exposure & Practice (REP)

REP extends the student's English exposure beyond the classroom with specifically designed online content that provides fun and exciting "edutainment" presented by professional native English speakers. Practice is important because it ensures the repetition and exposure to core language functions and patterns students need for increasing fluency.



GrapeSEED Digital Resources

The GrapeSEED Digital Resources are a comprehensive collection of fully integrated online resources designed to improve the overall teaching and learning experience. The GrapeSEED Digital Resources are ever evolving and provide exciting benefits for administrators, teachers, students, and families.

A Fun and Engaging Experience, On the Go

The GrapeSEED Student App allows students to continue learning anywhere. The Student App guides the child's learning experience with daily recommended content and provides interactivity and choice for increased engagement. Children advance through unit content while earning badges and unlocking GrapeSEED puzzles—gaining a sense of satisfaction, achievement, increased confidence, and advancement with language.

Insight into Student Learning

Engaged families contribute to learning success. The GrapeSEED Parent Site allows families to monitor their child's learning and find a variety of helpful information about GrapeSEED. The Parent Site hosts downloadable activity pages to engage children and unit newsletters that inform families. With this information and these resources, families can see what their students have been learning and engage in the content with their child.

Administration for Success

The School Site provides a place to manage GrapeSEED information including class unit plans and student lists. Administrators and teachers can also maintain all their information while supporting their students' families, engage in on-going teacher training, and get administrator support from GrapeSEED.

Professional Development and Our High Quality GrapeSEED Content for Teachers

Professional development and instructional support are critical parts of ensuring the successful implementation of GrapeSEED.

The Teacher Training Site is a professional development resource, composed of a video library and on-demand online courses to teach and support teachers on effective instructional strategies using the GrapeSEED curriculum. The professional development series includes topics from theories that are foundational to GrapeSEED curriculum design and implementation, as well as detailed, component-specific directions to help teachers improve their instruction.

The Teacher Resources Site contains all GrapeSEED content and teaching materials including the student material, as well as teacher content such as lesson plans, the Lesson Viewer, and the unit newsletters.



GrapeSEED is dedicated to providing schools and families with all the tools necessary to make English instruction and acquisition as successful and rewarding as possible.

For more information on what we have to offer, please check out our official website here:

<https://grapeseed.com/us/>



