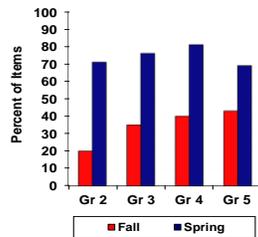


Efficacy of Empower™ Reading/ TCDSB Research Data Highlights

Student performance in our Empower classes since 2009 has consistently shown:

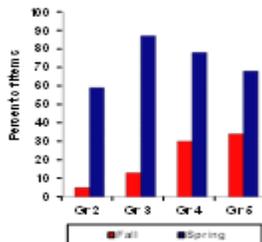
- 1) Students at all grade levels make strong gains in phonemic awareness, decoding and word recognition (e.g., knowing Sound Combinations).

Sound Combinations



- 2) Students also improve on various measures of literacy assessment (e.g., reading Transfer Words).

Transfer Words



- 3) Students in the Empower program improve on standardized measures of decoding and comprehension.



For more information about
Empower Reading contact:

ldrp@sickkids.ca



Bruce Rodrigues, Director of Education

Ann Andrachuk, Chair of the Board

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2012-2013

Wards

1. Peter Jakovcic	416-512-3401
2. Ann Andrachuk, Chair	416-512-3402
3. Sal Piccininni, Vice-Chair	416-512-3403
4. Patrizia Bottoni	416-512-3404
5. Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
6. Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406
7. John Del Grande	416-512-3407
8. Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
9. Jo-Ann Davis	416-512-3409
10. Barbara Poplawski	416-512-3410
11. Angela Kennedy	416-512-3411
12. Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
Andrew Walker, Student Trustee	416-512-3413

Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M2N 6E8
(416) 222-8282 x 2626 - www.tcdsb.org



Empower™ Reading within TCDSB



Special Services

Frank Piddis
Superintendent, Special Services

Psychology Department

Dr. Maria Kokai
Chief Psychologist
80 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M2N 6E8

Empower™ Reading Within TCDSB Elementary Schools

TCDSB & SickKids Partnership



Empower Reading has been developed through a rigorous research program which spans 30 years.

The TCDSB and the Learning Disabilities Research Program (LDRP) at the Hospital for Sick Children have been involved in a research partnership since 1999 to develop the PHAST intervention program for students who have demonstrated significant difficulties in reading.

In 2006, Empower™ Reading (the commercial version of PHAST) was introduced within

TCDSB as well as in several other school boards.

What is Empower™ Reading?

- Developed by the Learning Disabilities Research Program (LDRP) at the Hospital for Sick Children, led by Psychologist Dr. Maureen Lovett
- Based on rigorous research standards with over 4,000 struggling readers in Canada and the U.S.

- Includes instructional features found to yield positive long-term outcomes for struggling readers
- Addresses core learning deficits preventing children from reading successfully

The Goals of Empower™ Reading:

- Teach struggling readers a set of effective strategies for decoding words and understanding text.
- Allow students to experience success in reading and gain confidence in their own reading skills.
- Help students become independent readers equipped with multiple word attack strategies.
- Empower students to move beyond decoding strategies and read independently for meaning, information, and pleasure.

TCDSB Student Eligibility Criteria

The School Based Support Learning Team (SBSLT) is required to meet, to consider whether the student is a suitable candidate for Empower, based on fulfillment of all of the criteria below:

- A. The student is in grade 2-5 on entering the program;
- B. The primary presenting concern is difficulty in decoding and/or word identification;
- C. The student has an IEP;
- D. The student meets at least one of the following criteria:
 - identified as Exceptional – LD/ LI, or
 - assessed or has been referred for an assessment (i.e. Psychological, Educational, Speech & Language), or
 - record of previous instructional intervention through SBSLT
- E. The student has demonstrated consistent attendance in the past, and is able to participate in the program regularly;
- F. The student has no disruptive behaviors that may impact on the delivery of the program.

Program Delivery in TCDSB Elementary Schools:

- To serve community needs across the system, select elementary schools with a trained Empower teacher are designated as Empower Hubs to allow eligible students from neighbouring schools to access this one-year program.
- In addition, select local elementary schools with a trained Empower teacher receive Board support to provide this program to qualified Grades 2-5 students in their school.