



Empower™ Reading: Decoding and Spelling, Grades 2 to 5

A one-year intervention program in select TCDSB schools for eligible students who struggle with decoding and spelling skills

Transforms struggling readers into capable readers and confident learners

- Based on over 30 years of highly regarded, rigorous research
- Designed to engage students in reading for meaning, information, or pleasure
- Includes professional development demonstrated to improve teacher effectiveness

Empower™ Reading Results

TCDSB research continues to demonstrate the effectiveness of Empower™ Reading in enhancing students' literacy development. Since 2009, students in our Empower™ classes continue to consistently make strong gains in phonemic awareness, decoding and word recognition, as well as on various measures of literacy assessment and standardized measures of decoding and comprehension.

"Thank you for making Empower. I couldn't even read a book that was easy. I can read books that are chapter books AND 24 pages long!"
Logan, Grade 3 student

"I have witnessed students grow from emergent readers to progressively more fluent readers. The growing success in reading ability as result of the Empower program has led students to gain confidence in all areas of the curriculum."
Maria, Empower™ Reading Teacher

"This program has not only helped my son to learn how to read but also improved his self-esteem. He doesn't have to pretend to know how to read anymore; he knows that he can actually do it."
Nancy, Parent

"The Empower program has made a profound difference to the lives of many students. Students become strategic and successful readers. Over 12 years, I have witnessed the transformative power of the Empower program." Maria, Principal

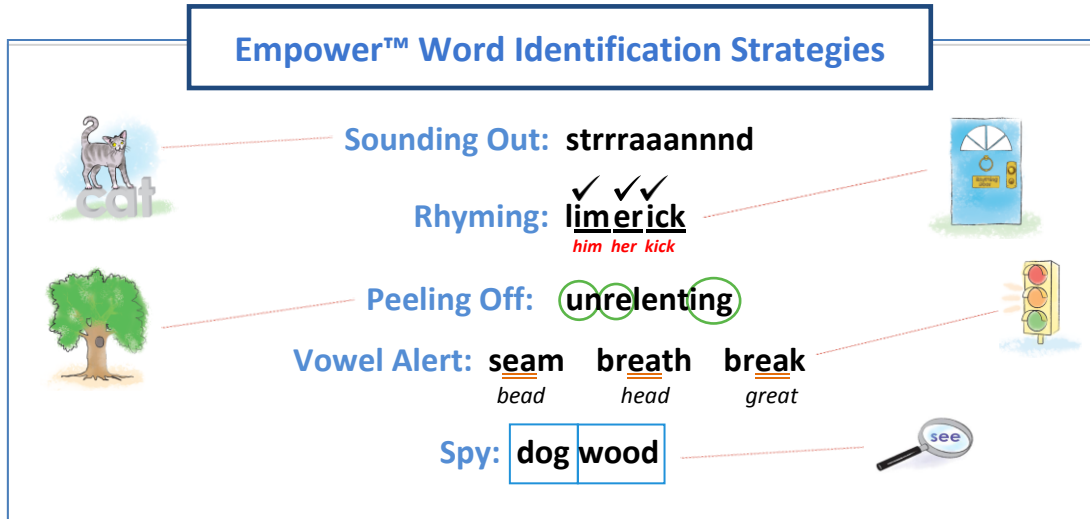
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The Five Empower™ Decoding Strategies

The five strategies are taught in sequence and are practised cumulatively over 110 lessons. They are:

- (1) **Sounding Out** (a phonological letter-sound decoding strategy);
- (2) **Rhyming** (a word identification-by-analogy strategy)¹;
- (3) **Peeling Off** (a strategy for separating affixes in multi-syllabic words);
- (4) **Vowel Alert** (a strategy for trying variable vowel pronunciations); and
- (5) **SPY** (a strategy for seeking familiar parts of unfamiliar words).



Acquiring and Applying the Game Plan

The Game Plan helps students quickly *select* appropriate strategies, accurately *apply* the selected strategies, actively *monitor* their application of the strategies, and *evaluate* the success of their efforts.

