
Specialized Program Individualizing Reading Excellence

S.P.I.R.E. was designed to give every teacher, and every student, access to a multisensory Structured Literacy approach to reading. While it is easy to work with, there are a number of things to consider as you put together your first order.

THE FIRST STEP: ASSESSING YOUR STUDENTS

You can begin by completing a Placement Assessment for every identified student. This will identify the Levels and quantities needed for every teacher and student. It also helps you navigate logistics like group size, groups for each Level or teacher, and scheduling. If you cannot complete a Placement Assessment prior to purchase, then please contact your representative for guidance.

WHICH LEVELS WILL YOU NEED?

The first consideration will be the Levels needed by each teacher. S.P.I.R.E. sets are Teacher Sets, which include most essential resources needed for instruction and demonstration. At a minimum, each teacher should have the Level Sets they will be teaching, and ideally the next Level up.

✦ If you’re ordering only Single-Level Sets, add a Phoneme Segmentation Chart. Every Teacher working with S.P.I.R.E. Levels 1–6 should have a Phoneme Segmentation Chart.
✦ When buying Multi-Level Sets (Beginning-Level 2 or Level 1-3), which have a discount built in, you do not need to add a Phoneme Segmentation Chart—it’s already included.
✦ Single-Level Sets and Multi-Level Sets include 1 Digital Teacher Companion which provides teachers with digital access to all teaching materials through the online platform. This license is valid for 1 year.
✦ It is our experience that when purchasing S.P.I.R.E. for Elementary students in Special Education, or for students exhibiting characteristics of Dyslexia or specific Learning Disabilities, roughly 75% of your students will place in Sounds Sensible or S.P.I.R.E. Level 1, so you’ll want your order to reflect that.
HOW MANY SHOULD YOU ORDER?

Next you’ll want to determine the quantity of Student Bundles, Student Manipulatives Kits, and Decodables you’ll need.

✦ Order a Student Bundle (Student Workbook + Digital Student STAR, assessment tracker) for each student at each Level. This is the only resource in S.P.I.R.E. which must be purchased every year, and anytime a student moves up to the next Level.

✦ The number of Student Manipulatives Kits needed is generally based on one of two models.
  - Order 1 kit per student in the largest group each teacher will teach. For example, if a teacher has 3 groups (regardless of the Levels taught) of 3, 5, and 4 students each, then the teacher will need 5 Student Manipulatives Kits.
  - Order 1 kit for every student receiving SPIRE Level 1-6 instruction.

✦ Decodables are an important part of independent student work. For many, this may be the first book they are able to read independently. Students work independently when their teacher is assessing a student in their group. Decodables can also be used as take-home or take-to-class books. Order an A and B set for each Level purchased for each teacher. Purchasing Class Sets gives you the greatest value.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: THE KEY TO BEST RESULTS

The most important consideration of any S.P.I.R.E. implementation is Professional Development. To implement with fidelity and achieve results, every teacher should be trained. Your training plans should include:

✦ Initial training

✦ Refresher training (about 6 weeks after teachers begin instruction)

✦ Coaching days where our Professional Learning Team will observe, provide feedback, and model as needed

Questions?

Always feel free to contact your local School Specialty representative for guidance. To find a representative near you, contact our Customer Care team at 800-225-5750