

## Publisher Response to Program Review: Fluent Reader

Renaissance Learning, Inc. would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the supplemental curriculum review of Fluent Reader® and share our appreciation of the time involved in this evaluation. We applaud your efforts and dedication in creating resources for educators to reference when selecting instructional materials that work.

After reviewing the completed evaluation for Fluent Reader, we noticed that some important aspects of the program might not have been apparent during the review. Renaissance Learning respectfully offers the following program clarifications on two points contained in the evaluation rubric.

The first criterion was *Provides fluency practice at the word level*. The Fluent Reader evaluation sheet shows that we received zero points in this category. However, we believe that Fluent Reader does address this criterion because of how students are trained to use specific features within the program. Students are told to always click on words that are hard for them during their first reading of a Fluent Reader passage. The computer keeps these words highlighted for the rest of the student's practice with that passage. Students are taught to listen carefully to their hard words during the modeled readings and then practice saying these words aloud. Also during modeled readings, students can click on a word to hear it read back to them in the context of its sentence. When students listen to their own recorded readings of the passage, they make sure they have pronounced all the words correctly, but especially their hard words.

The fifth criterion was *Passages contain regular words comprised of letter-sounds, phonic elements, and word types that have been taught*. The evaluation sheet shows that Fluent Reader received .5 points in this category. We believe the program may merit a higher score because of how the phonics passages can supplement a core curriculum. The program contains 120 phonics passages, which are broken out into short- and long-vowel word families, blends and digraphs, and short and long vowels. These sounds are part of any systematic phonics curriculum, and teachers can assign Fluent Reader phonics passages to reinforce specific phonic elements while students work on their fluency.