

## CVA Custom Language Arts: First Grade

Learning to read is a complex process. Repetition is important and may seem simple to you, but it will help your child master critical skills.

Students need to listen to stories, talk about them, interact with the ideas and skills in different ways. They may also use manipulatives, local libraries, and our optional online phonics supplemental programs.

There are many different types of materials for this course because students need to work on letter and sound recognition, phonics, comprehension, listening skills, retelling skills, and handwriting, all of which will lead to successful independent reading.

CVA has designed this short overview to help you get your child off to the best start possible. Below are some specific instructions for beginning this reading program along with more detailed descriptions of each component of the program.

1. Administer the **Explode the Code** placement test for your child. The books that came as a part of this set are designed for 1<sup>st</sup> grade students, but your student may score above grade level. If this is the case, contact your teacher so that the correct level can be ordered. Once you have determined the correct starting point, refer to the enclosed schedule for lesson pacing.
2. Read the Teacher's Manual for Explode the Code in order to successfully implement phonics instruction. There are detailed instructions to help you build fluency, comprehension, phonics, vocabulary, and writing, as well as reinforcement activities for each lesson.
3. **Ready Reading** will consist of two different types of lessons, Read Aloud Lessons and Focus Lessons. Refer to pages A14-A15 of the Teacher Resource Book for more detailed information.
4. Daily story time is important, so read to your student every day.
5. Your student is going to dictate the pace at which you follow this program, but we encourage you to follow the calendar as best you can. An ongoing conversation with your CVA teacher to gauge progress is the best way to determine an appropriate pace for your child.

### **These are the materials your student will be working with:**

**Explode the Code** Give your student the Explode the Code Placement Test to find out where your student should start in this program. Be sure to read through the Teacher Guidebook and incorporate as many suggestions noted throughout each lesson as you see appropriate to enhance your student's learning. The Wall Chart mentioned within Explode the Code is not a part of the set; however, you can easily create a wall chart on your own, and this will help your child to see these words daily and aid in improving their reading skills. In addition to the Explode the Code books you should add words from the other academic areas as well. **The half books are a review of skills from the previous book. The post test will indicate if the half book is needed.**

**Ready Reading** includes a student instruction book, teacher resource book and high-quality literature and informational texts from a variety of genres. Lessons have a consistent layout throughout the curriculum; teaching, modeling and practicing for emerging readers. Pacing and instructions are easy to follow.

**Bob Books** consist of 4 boxed sets within this curriculum. Once your student has been introduced to a book, continue to read and re-read the book, in addition to the new ones introduced. This repetition is at the heart of learning to read. Add words to your word wall that you find are giving your student trouble. Adding any leveled reader to your collection of books that your child can read will greatly help improve reading skills.

**Additional online reading supplemental program:** Ask your CVA Teacher about additional online reading programs that are available to your student. Learning A to Z and i-Ready are two examples. Finding leveled readers for your student is very important.