

WHITEPAPER

# EMPOWERING SPECIAL LEARNERS:

## Footsteps2Brilliance for Inclusive Early Literacy Success





# FOOTSTEPS2BRILLIANCE® SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Footsteps2Brilliance is ideally suited to meet the needs of special learners. Both struggling readers and English language learners benefit from an environment replete with environmental print, literacy experiences, and explicit instruction. Of particular importance for students with special needs, Footsteps2Brilliance offers:

- Comprehensive curriculum
- Multimodal instruction
- Immediate Feedback
- Unlimited repetition
- Opportunities to build automaticity
- Ongoing formative assessment

## Research-based Instruction

Footsteps2Brilliance is a comprehensive, research-based early learning program designed to increase kindergarten readiness and third grade reading proficiency. Footsteps2Brilliance provides teachers and parents with core-aligned curriculum adapted to the individual learning needs of their students. The full program consists of comprehensive early learning apps with thousands of interactive eBooks, learning

games, writing activities and projects in English and Spanish. In addition, the program includes classroom lesson plans, a complete K-2 summer school curriculum, printable activity sheets, a dynamic game card maker, an embedded teacher professional development network, parent letters, and parent activity guides.

As a comprehensive early literacy curriculum founded in the latest research the Footsteps2Brilliance curriculum is perfectly aligned with standards.

## Universal Design

Footsteps2Brilliance student log in is designed to be used by students with the widest possible range of abilities. No usernames or passwords are required. Students simply click 4 pictures representing their “Super-Secret Code”. Once within the program, students will quickly become familiar with standard buttons and navigation.



## Address a range of learning styles

All Footsteps2Brilliance programs provide a multi-modal learning experience to support a range of learning styles. Children learn through direct instruction, music, nursery rhymes, literature, informational text, STEM texts, digital manipulatives, games, exploration, projects and a simple word processor for book publishing.

## Developmentally Appropriate Mastery of Skills

Footsteps2Brilliance uses developmentally appropriate practices to help children master skills. Built-in scaffolding guides children toward mastery by providing immediate feedback, hints, and unlimited opportunities to practice and repeat activities. For each activity, children can make multiple attempts, but they are ultimately guided to input the correct response in order to proceed. For activities where mastery is appropriate, we utilize an algorithm that ensures student mastery by getting 80% of the questions that they answer correct.

## Building Early Success

Young children can experience immediate success with Footsteps2Brilliance. Children build self-esteem and confidence as they work independently on age-appropriate material that is appropriately challenging and provides support when needed. The intuitive login and navigation make it easy for children to get started and experience early success. Children can choose the order they want to complete activities and whether they would like to repeat activities they enjoyed. This sense of self-accomplishment, success, and choice can positively affect future learning and development—especially student motivation.

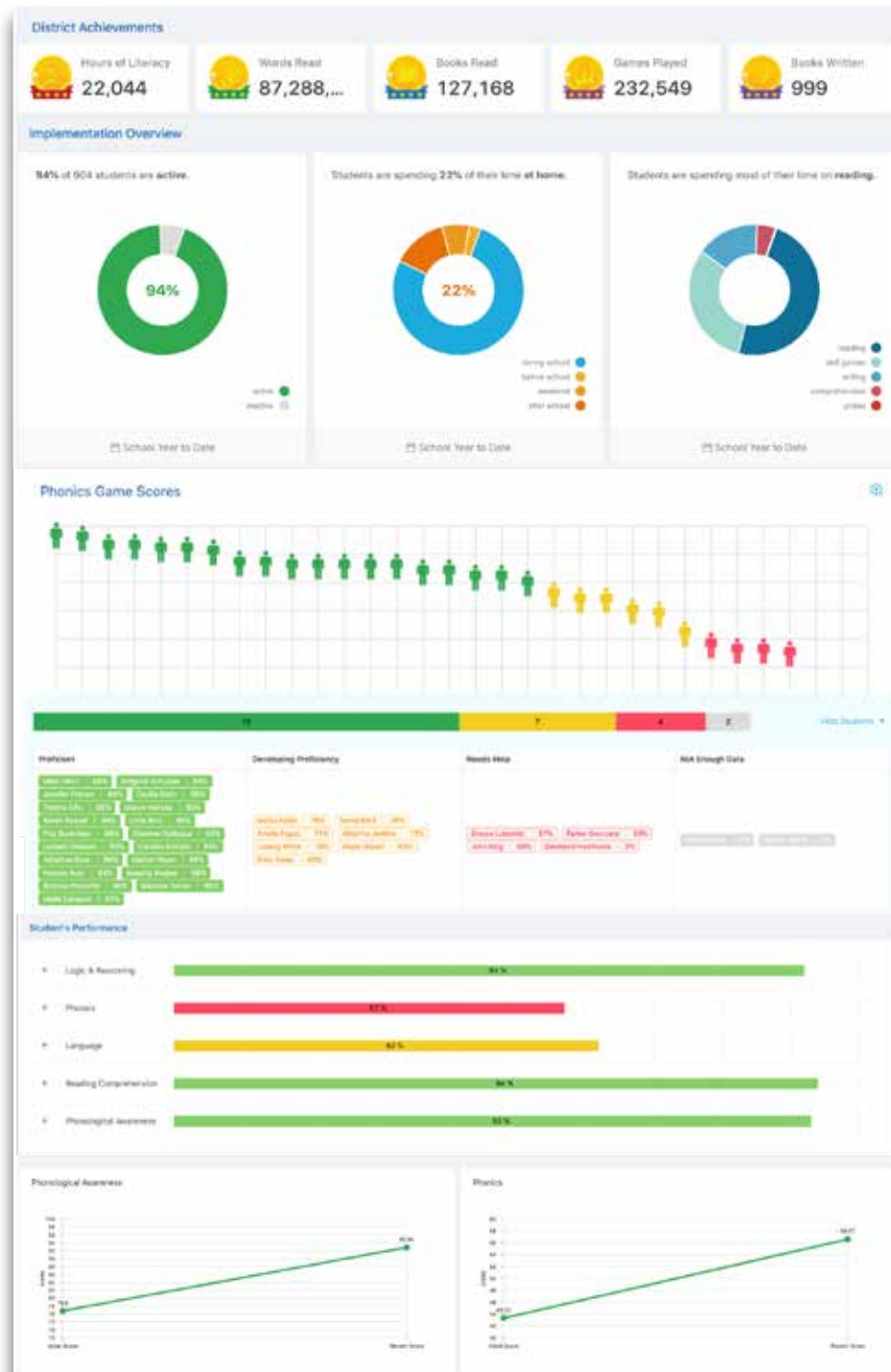
## Child-directed Learning

Footsteps2Brilliance builds upon and reviews skills from previous lessons, offering a highly effective spiraling curriculum. Recognizing that children learn at varying rates and in various ways, Footsteps2Brilliance provides an environment where children can direct their own learning. While trophies, badges, coins, and stars celebrate success and encourage children to attempt new skills, children can also choose to deeply explore the books, puzzles, and games they mastered previously.



# Real-time Data Analytics

Footsteps2Brilliance monitors proficiency on foundational skills and literacy with every game students play. Using sophisticated scoring algorithms, we provide insight on student strengths and weaknesses so that teachers can easily differentiate learning, target interventions and monitor progress—no matter where students are learning.





## ABOUT FOOTSTEPS2BRILLIANCE

Footsteps2Brilliance is the leading provider of effective next-generation digital tools, bilingual content, and learning experiences that connect school and home, and enhance, not replace, excellent teaching. Since 2012 we've committed our research and resources to closing the reading achievement gap for all students from birth through elementary school using a collaborative impact approach. In partnership with educators, families, and communities we are unlocking brilliance and empowering students to realize their full potential.

Learn more at [www.Footsteps2Brilliance.com](http://www.Footsteps2Brilliance.com).

### References:

*The Education Recovery Scorecard. The First Year of Pandemic Recovery: A District-Level Analysis* by Center for Education Policy Research, Harvard University and The Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University. January 2024 <https://educationrecoverycorecard.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/ERS-Report-Final-1.31.pdf>

Fisher, Doug and Frey, Nancy. (2020) "Make Deliberate Practice Part of Your Classroom Routine." *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, Vol.63 (5), 593-596.