December 2022

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Accelerating Learning by Helping Students Get Ahead and Stay Ahead in Reading and Literacy

Comparing Reading Progress* in Microsoft Teams for Education* and Google Read Along* in supporting literacy instruction.

Objective

The goal of this paper is to assess how educators can use literacy tools and strategies to support student reading with Reading Progress and Read Along.

Key Findings

- Reading Progress allows educators to select passages for students from kindergarten through secondary grades and displays Lexile[®] levels for each passage.
- Educators can access student recordings and automated phonemic analysis using Reading Progress.
- Students have immediate literacy feedback in Reading Progress, which supplies information on accuracy by skill category, words per minute, and individualized practice words.
- **4.** By contrast, Read Along only provides students with data on the amount of time spent reading.
- 5. Educators who use Reading Progress have access to over ten literacy data reports while Read Along only provides data on the total amount of time read, the number of active students, and words per minute.
- 6. While using Education Insights in Reading Progress, educators can create assignments based on challenging vocabulary or phonics concepts for a class, group, or individual student.
- 7. Read Along is designed specifically for younger students, which leaves out older learners who need to develop their literacy skills.

Conclusion

Educators often face challenges meeting each student's unique needs due to barriers such as the amount of time needed to assess and diagnose each student. Digital literacy tools help bridge that gap by providing students with a choice of leveled reading material; empowering educators with rich, actionable data; and, most importantly, adapting to meet individual student's learning needs and preferences. When equipped with the right resources, educators can help each student grow and improve their literacy skills.

For students and educators alike, Reading Progress supplies a more inclusive, holistic, and data-rich literacy instruction solution that can help all learners gain vital reading skills.



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