

State Of Hawaii
Department Of Education
Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School
4431 Nuhou Street
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

To: Whom It May Concern

April 27th, 2004

I am a reading teacher for struggling middle school readers at Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School in Lihue, Kauai. They come to me with varying degrees of difficulty in reading. My job requires me to target the specific areas of need and teach and facilitate a learning program for each child. My first year I accomplished the task by grouping the students by needs within each class and subsequently planning time with each group to teach skills, listen to reading, ask probing questions, etc. I ran myself ragged trying to keep up with my own record keeping and managing the various groups within my class. One size does not fit all and I was serious about finding "the best fit" for each of my students. It is at this juncture that the initial WIN 2000 software became available to me.

We loaded up the WIN 2000 Reading Plus program the second year of our reading program. That was the 2002/2003 school year. All my students were individually tested via computer to measure independent reading level and vocabulary levels. Students entered the program at their personnel level. I knew that in each class session one of the rotations would be on the computer and that each student would get intense visual practice, vocabulary development and reading practice along with comprehension questions and immediate feedback. My initial delight was just the focused time on task for students. Generally they were either with me or on the computer. But the real joy came with the results. By the end of our first year, every student was showing gains in fluency, vocabulary expansion and comprehension competency. Two grade level jumps in our running reading records was the norm.

With the success of our first year we added S.O.S. (Lexia's Strategies for Older Students) in the fall of 2003, and most recently, A+ LS, A+nywhere Learning System, early in 2004. Both of these programs have been well received by students. The S.O.S. program provides a phonemic assessment and then targets the needs of the students who still need individualized phonemic instruction. Students enjoy the differing "game-like" format and progress at a steady rate.

The A+LS program my students use is in reading and vocabulary though other core curriculum areas are available. It is completely aligned to the Hawaii State Standards. I like to print out the standards that each lesson addressed when a student finishes a particular section just so they can see all that they have accomplished. Students understand the standards better and all the skill acquisition that goes with each standard. The self-study and practice mode before taking a lesson test boosts understanding. I have been delighted with the transfer of that same understanding into the essay section of A+LS where students demonstrate their understanding in writing. Students are eager to get on this program and monitor their own success.

The WIN 2000 System has greatly influenced my reading program. I have data at my fingertips for individual education plans and extended instruction. Students as well are actively involved in their own progress and are able to get immediate feedback on gains

comparable to last year's results. I suspect that the final results will show even more improvement. However, the greatest improvement has been in the students themselves and their desire to actually read for enjoyment because now they can!

As a final note, I'd like to comment on the support offered by The WARE Group, the company that provides all the components and training for WIN 2000. They are knowledgeable, easy to work with and always available if questions arise.

Thank you for this opportunity to share a few of the successes I have experienced with WIN 2000.

Sincerely,

Christina Kipili'i
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