

Rapid-Fire Expert Exchange - Online Chat

By User	Message
Nick Andreotta	Welcome! Nick here from Tucson
Dana Merritt	Hi Nick, Dana here from Jacksonville.
Nick Andreotta	Hi Dana! welcome!
Dana Merritt	:)
Dana Merritt	my smile got squished together...
Hallie Smith	Hi there, everyone, from sunny san diego
Hallie Smith	Hi Dana!
Dana Merritt	Hi Hallie!
Meg Ross	Hi Dana! Welcome!
Dana Merritt	Thank you Meg
Nick Andreotta	Welcome LearnFast!
Nick Andreotta	WOW!
carrie gajowski	Hi everyone!
Hallie Smith	Who has already seen REading Assistant Plus?? Before we get into the details.
Hallie Smith	Has anyone tried it yet?
Dana Merritt	That's wonderful. Thank YOU.
adina block	fine
Diane Nancarrow	Volume is just right in Michigan
Leeat Medalion	fien
Leeat Medalion	fine
Valerie Lovegreen	The volume is fine, thanks.
Adele Sherman	Speech is not always clear
Dana Merritt	it is fine in Florida
Marlene Lewis	volume is fine here
barbara sykes	i can hear if i turn my vol up
adina block	is the intervention teacher guided at all?
Hallie Smith	OKay great re: volume
Laura Alexander	a little soft and fast

Hallie Smith	Who has seen RA Plus?
Hallie Smith	Already?
Leeat Medalion	I am currently using it.
Hallie Smith	Is this new to you or something you've seen already?
Hallie Smith	Awesome- hi Leeat!
barbara sykes	never seen it yet
Leeat Medalion	HI :)
Hallie Smith	The word wall is really cool, Barbara
barbara sykes	im interested in how to decide where a student should start...how to choose the approp library
Marlene Lewis	new to me, just tried setting it up for a client today and I wan't able to make it work. Problem was at my end. I didn't have a USB adapter. Good to be learning about RA+
Hallie Smith	Great, Marlene
Hallie Smith	Barbara - we'll have Meg answer that
Leeat Medalion	the technical part can get frustrating at times. Best to use chrome. Make sure that the usb is on in the application settings
Hallie Smith	let's also discuss that further, leeat
Hallie Smith	tips and tricks from Meg, perhaps...
Leeat Medalion	sounds good.
Nick Andreotta	Word Wall! <a href="https://help.scilearn.com/slchelp/MSL_Help/Content/SLP/ra2-program-word-wall.htm?Highlight=Word%20Wall">https://help.scilearn.com/slchelp/MSL_Help/Content/SLP/ra2-program-word-wall.htm?Highlight=Word%20Wall</a>
Nick Andreotta	<a href="https://www.scilearn.com/sites/default/files/pdf/reading-assistant-plus.pdf?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT1RobU56Y3dZVFJrTURaaCIsInQiOiJZemthUXNGZ20yeEhESFBzbGVJM25mUE1lM0VMNUNjZzhKZVE1VVNwRHRyUktJU3Y2NXBueGRkTE42aVhLcnRnY3RHnzBLbk5zcEdWcjdXcW5jNE14Vk9wK2UzVU9Gdk1rU3pj">https://www.scilearn.com/sites/default/files/pdf/reading-assistant-plus.pdf?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT1RobU56Y3dZVFJrTURaaCIsInQiOiJZemthUXNGZ20yeEhESFBzbGVJM25mUE1lM0VMNUNjZzhKZVE1VVNwRHRyUktJU3Y2NXBueGRkTE42aVhLcnRnY3RHnzBLbk5zcEdWcjdXcW5jNE14Vk9wK2UzVU9Gdk1rU3pj</a>
Diane Nancarrow	I love the Word Wall addition.
Rhonda Hemphill	I have found that the Andrea microphone that SLC recommends identifies words as incorrect that were read correctly. Adjusting the sensitivity doesn't seem to help. Can your help with that?

Hallie Smith	Alternative question: anyone use RA with students for reading practice at home? Parents love it...
Hallie Smith	Great question -Rhonda
Marlene Lewis	Its great. The kid love it
Dana Merritt	So is Reading Assistant changing to Reading Assitant Plus?
Hallie Smith	there's a reason for that
Leeat Medalion	I would like to review any tips or tricks regarding technical problems
Marlene Lewis	I use it with lots of kids.
Hallie Smith	Dana - RA Plus is the latest version with all the new bells and whistles
Leeat Medalion	I am using the RA for reading practice at home.
Hallie Smith	Great, Leeat.
Marlene Lewis	All kids using it say they like it, even though they are kids who are struggling readers and might not like using FF, they always like RA
Dana Merritt	So...it is replacing Reading Assistant?
Hallie Smith	I'd like meg to explain how/why the program corrects some but not all words
Leeat Medalion	My daughter prefers RA over the books she brings home from school.
Marlene Lewis	RA+ looks like a very good development
Hallie Smith	Marlene - I hear that too re: liking RA!
Leeat Medalion	I use Andrea headphones with USB adaptor but sometimes it needs to be adjusted in the computer settings.
barbara sykes	what settings need adjustment?
Diane Nancarrow	Will RA+ require a provider?
Rhonda Hemphill	Unfortunately, no. My kids have been very frustrated about this because they think they're being unfairly marked incorrect. Is there another microphone I can use?
barbara sykes	how does RA interface with FF Reading programs....is it addressing different skills?
Hallie Smith	Diane - It's only offered currently to FFW learners or through you all/at schools
Dana Merritt	So if I start a student on RA will they automatically transfer into RAPIus
Hallie Smith	Dana - You will choose RA Plus in the assignment options.

Leeat Medalion	Barbara- in the application/sound
Marlene Lewis	The parent here today wanted her daughter to do it on the iPad
Dana Merritt	We looked today for purchasing and did not see it as an option.
Hallie Smith	Dana, on the purchase screen?
Marlene Lewis	getting RA+ will be a helpful development
Leeat Medalion	She is motivated by seeing her scores go up each time she reads
Hallie Smith	If you purchase now, it will be a license for RA Plus
Leeat Medalion	yes- I when into the sound setting and made sure that the USB was clicked
Dana Merritt	I have to ask my office manager....he said he didn't see it. We will try again, tomorrow.
Marlene Lewis	I meant getting RA+ working on the iPad will be a helpful development
Hallie Smith	There's no need to choose RA Plus specifically, Dana. Perhaps that clarifies?
Hallie Smith	Parents cannot purchase RA directly
Hallie Smith	Hope that answers the question
Dana Merritt	Hallie....that's the answer I needed!!!!
Hallie Smith	Marlene - sure thing re: iPad usage!
Diane Nancarrow	I like that if they read well 2x, the reader doesn't have to read aloud that third time. I got a lot of resistance from that
Rhonda Hemphill	That would be great. Thanks.
Hallie Smith	We were just talking about that with the VARs, Diane. If they reach fluency measures on first two reads, they don't have to read the 3rd time.
Dana Merritt	That's good news, Hallie.
barbara sykes	we have always used the FFWD reading after the language series....it sounds like RA doesn't nec. require going thru the language series ...? maybe for diff type kids
Hallie Smith	The reading series is very different - receptive/heavily language based...
Hallie Smith	Reading Assistant is a read aloud program with support - more emphasis on production/fluency vs. wide range of vocab, organizing, memory, sequencing, language, etc. skills addressed in the Reading series.

Leeat Medalion	There are ways to change the sensitivities of the speech recognition for those children who become frustrated.
Dana Merritt	I take my students through the Fast ForWord programs then the Reading Program. Then I do the RPI and find out where we are missing critical information then I start the RA program.
Hallie Smith	that sounds like a nice flow, Dana
barbara sykes	i have assigned my new RA lic to a kid, gave her a pw etc but can't open it...maybe i need to call tech support?
Hallie Smith	the thing about RA is that at its core, it's reading practice
Adele Sherman	Youre fine.
Rhonda Hemphill	Volume is good
Hallie Smith	so there's no real reason to wait to use it - it's a fun, motivating way to get the dedicated 30 minutes of reading practice that most teachers want
Dana Merritt	Hallie...the only reason is the cost factor.
Marlene Lewis	I have used RA effectively to help kids with apraxia develop their speech skills in addition o other spch therapy. The word wall will help this along with
Hallie Smith	Barbara- you're absolutely right. There's no requirement for anything to be completed prior to beginning RA
Hallie Smith	Marlene - awesome idea!
Hallie Smith	I've heard it being used for children with autism to help with prosody as well
adina block	don't remember hearing specifically 3X
Hallie Smith	Dana - well you'll get an RA license for free soon, hopefully!
barbara sykes	dana, I like that menu...am thinking of blending those 3 this summer some kids. This would mean doing them (language, Reading and RA) simultaneously ...thoughts on that?
adina block	but repeated reading is the way to go for fluency
Hallie Smith	Exactly, Adina
Hallie Smith	Barbara - yes, re: password issue, best to call tech support. they will get that all sorted out.
Rhonda Hemphill	I use RA for kids after we have worked directly on reading decoding.

Hallie Smith	Barbara - We see RA as a way to *apply* the skills that are being learned in FFW, and find that students find it very motivating.
Dana Merritt	I don't allow my kids to do the RPI at home. I want to hear them read. It is very informative how they are reading a word that similar to the word and end up getting the question right, but did not say the exact word. That's time for RA in my opinion.
Leeat Medalion	There is an option in the library all the way on the bottom that allows to play with the settings. Hold on i'll get more specific
Hallie Smith	Re: doing all the different programs at once, you'd of course want to tailor the exercises to the learner in question
Hallie Smith	Makes sense, Dana
Marlene Lewis	yes I always start with FF for kids w apraxia, then introduce FF Rdg and RA
Leeat Medalion	When you scroll down in the library there is an "Advanced Settings". It gives the option to adjust the pronunciation correctness- making it more or less strict. You can also adjust the intervention wait time (amount of time before the program intervenes)
Leeat Medalion	You can also enable audio support in that section.
Dana Merritt	I love that part of RA and RAPIus
Meg Ross	That is correct Leeat.
Diane Nancarrow	Why are think about its a preview activity instead of imbedded within the content?
Leeat Medalion	I actually introduced the RA to my daughter before starting her on FFW. I feel that RA can be used at any time with neurotypical children. It is interesting that she is doing very well in the RA however struggling with sky gym.
Diane Nancarrow	Are they answered after the first read through?
Dana Merritt	Those of us who can see color, love that aspect. But my husband, is a color blind as can be. IF he were to look at this the colors of what needs to be repeated would not be helpful to him. Just a thought. There are children who are color blind.
Hallie Smith	Very interesting, Leeat!

Diane Nancarrow	Thank you, Meg! That makes it much more clear. What kids are supposed to do, vs. what they try to do. :-)
Dana Merritt	We have the ability to see how much time they spend in each section.
Meg Ross	Excellent feedback on the Color Coding Dana thank you.
Marlene Lewis	yes depends on the case
Rhonda Hemphill	Thanks, Leat. That's helpful.
Dana Merritt	My husband is so bad, he cannot tell if the house is alarmed and the light is red or if it is not alarmed and the light is green. Just a thought.
Marlene Lewis	I don't and would love to hear thoughts on that
barbara sykes	what is the child like? DOes she have any diagnoses?
Rhonda Hemphill	On RA they may be reading by sight vs. the sound sequencing required on Sky Gym.
Hallie Smith	How could you imagine incorporating RA into your practice, if you don't now?
Dana Merritt	Sky Gym ....to me is critical but it is important to think "high, high," or "low, low." When they give the instruction they said Up and they say Down arrows.
barbara sykes	yes
Leeat Medalion	She is a typical 2nd grader. She saw my son do it and begged me to start it for her. That is why I think this is very interesting. My thought would be that her speed/reaction time on sky gym is slow.
Leeat Medalion	She is still on 0 percent after 5 days.
Hallie Smith	interesting, Leeat. It's always fascinating how some kids can compensate or not for these small tasks
barbara sykes	where is she on sky gym?
Leeat Medalion	Yes. Agreed.
Leeat Medalion	Do you mean what HZ?
Nick Andreotta	<a href="https://help.scilearn.com/slchelp/MSL_Help/Content/SLP/ra2-program-word-wall.htm?Highlight=Word%20Wall">https://help.scilearn.com/slchelp/MSL_Help/Content/SLP/ra2-program-word-wall.htm?Highlight=Word%20Wall</a>
barbara sykes	hmmm interesting. I assume you've done the help screens? Does she "get the task"?

Rhonda Hemphill	Is there a way to adjust the fluency requirements on RA? I had a child who physically speaks slowly and he struggled with the fluency requirements even though he was accurate.
Hallie Smith	There is a rough minimum for 25 WCPM
Nick Andreotta	<a href="https://www.scilearn.com/sites/default/files/pdf/reading-assistant-plus.pdf?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT1RobU56Y3dZVFJrTURaaCIsInQiOiJZemthUXNGZ20yeEhESFBzbGVJM25mUE1IM0VMNUNjZzhKZVE1VVNwRHRyUktJU3Y2NXBueGRkTE42aVhLcnRnY3RHnzBLbk5zcEdWcjdxW5jNE14Vk9wK2UzVU9Gdk1rU3pj">https://www.scilearn.com/sites/default/files/pdf/reading-assistant-plus.pdf?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT1RobU56Y3dZVFJrTURaaCIsInQiOiJZemthUXNGZ20yeEhESFBzbGVJM25mUE1IM0VMNUNjZzhKZVE1VVNwRHRyUktJU3Y2NXBueGRkTE42aVhLcnRnY3RHnzBLbk5zcEdWcjdxW5jNE14Vk9wK2UzVU9Gdk1rU3pj</a>
Dana Merritt	I had a student who has graduated from all of the Fast ForWord programs, but just missed so many words...I was appalled. He scored at the 12th grade in comprehension on the RPI....but in no way is that accurate. I am hoping RAPlus will fix this.
Hallie Smith	might be difficult to work any slower than that
Meg Ross	Rhonda, we do not have a way to modify the pace of speech expectation on
Hallie Smith	Wow, DAna. Even Reading 5?
Dana Merritt	YES!!!!!!!!!!!!
Leeat Medalion	she is currently on 1KHZ 80ms if that answers your question. She is in progress for all of them. Very curious..
Hallie Smith	Wow. Well, something interesting is happening there...'cause that product is no joke!
Meg Ross	However, if the student is reading slowly, RA could still be a good fit. If you find that hte student is reading less than 25 words per minute on average at his/her reading level, I recommend timing reading outside of RA.
Rhonda Hemphill	That's what I though. Just wanted to check though
Hallie Smith	Never hurts to ask, Rhonda. :)
barbara sykes	Leeat have you tried handling the mouse, having her say hi-lo etc and you click? may be breakdown there?
Leeat Medalion	Barbara-I actually did not do that yet. I will do that next time she does Sky Gym. Thank you.
adina block	is it an oral-motor issue or he is trying to sound out the words?

barbara sykes	maybe she is impulsive? how is her performance on the other exercises?
Dana Merritt	I think that schools encourage children to take a guess. He needs to break that bad habit and read exactly what is written. This young man has also gone through Interactive Metronome program. WE have been going full speed to solve the last problem.
Leeat Medalion	She is doing well on all others. But she is impulsive at times.
adina block	are the comprehension questions multiple choice?
Dana Merritt	Yes they are.
Leeat Medalion	Adina-they are multiple choice
Nick Andreotta	<a href="http://www.brainvolts.northwestern.edu/publications.php">http://www.brainvolts.northwestern.edu/publications.php</a>
June Starkey	Hi Dana! It sounds to me that there are tracking issues if the student is missing words...a visual processing skill.
Meg Ross	mult. choice, mult. select, open book, true/false.
adina block	so maybe he/she guessed
Meg Ross	RA has many question types.
Meg Ross	Well, I say many, I mean 4.
barbara sykes	Leeat also, you prob know, advancement is based on multiple correct answers in a row...
Dana Merritt	I am a Vision Therapist. So we have fixed his visual gathering skills and his tracking skills.
June Starkey	Perfect! Glad to hear :)
Dana Merritt	Nina' presentation was great!!!!!!!
adina block	I was thinking about music and what if the kiddo is tone deaf?
Adele Sherman	Interactive Metronome which trains timing and rhythm has an effect on reading Fluency.
Nick Andreotta	<a href="https://www.2018visionaryconference.com/">https://www.2018visionaryconference.com/</a>
Dana Merritt	I know there are music therapists.
Leeat Medalion	I am so excited!!
barbara sykes	is there a virtual option for the visionary this year?
carrie gajowski	Yep - there is a virtual option!

carrie gajowski	Join us! It will be great!
Dana Merritt	I'm thrilled Visionary is coming to Florida. But I will miss going to San Diego. Will miss going out West.
Rhonda Hemphill	Thanks for this. It was helpful. I can't wait to actually attend the Visionary Conference in person!
Marlene Lewis	Thanks, great info
Adele Sherman	Thank you all of you.
carrie gajowski	4 total hours of Marty Burns!
Meg Ross	Thank you!
Diane Nancarrow	Thanks everybody!
Dana Merritt	AMAZING
Hallie Smith	Thank you for joining - looking forward to seeing you soon. :)
Leeat Medalion	Thank you Meg, Nick, and Carrie
	Interested in usingRA without that read aloud component. Is that a waste?