



Language Development Intervention for Students with Disabilities (Preschool-Elementary)





What Is TeachTown Language Accelerator and Who Is It For?

Language Accelerator is a technology-based language intervention program that targets students' individualized language goals. It is designed to be used by special educators, speech and language pathologists (SLPs), and instructional assistants with Preschool and Elementary students who have deficits in any area of language.



Special Education Teacher



CLD



Instructional Assistant

Many students with language disabilities or delays are diagnosed with Developmental Language Disorder (previously known as Specific Language Impairment). Some students who are struggling with language development skills may not yet have a formal diagnosis, and/or they may be in the Response-to-Intervention (RTI) process. Language Accelerator is an effective intervention for these students as well.

HOW DOES LANGUAGE ACCELERATOR WORK?

Language Accelerator is easy to use! Students love interacting with the engaging videos and visuals while working on targeted language skills that are unique to their learning profile. The personalized nature of the program ensures that each student is getting the 'just right' level of instruction to help them make measurable gains.

Language Accelerator begins with a placement assessment that measures students' language skills across 6 language domains:

- Semantics
- Syntax

Phonology

- Morphology
- Pragmatics
- Symbolic representation

The placement assessment allows facilitators to **quickstart instruction** as the program automatically assigns lessons at students' individual developmental language level.

Next, students begin working on their personalized language developmental goals through a combination of teacher-led and student-led technology lessons. There are over 1,200 lessons in Language Accelerator!

Teacher-led technology lessons are typically delivered in small group settings (and may also be appropriate for direct instruction with just one student). Student-led technology lessons are designed to be completely independently by the student.



WHAT DO LANGUAGE ACCELERATOR LESSONS LOOK LIKE?

Concepts are taught through concept instruction videos (CIVs) and multiple lesson types, including receptive label lessons, scene display lessons, and categorization lessons.

The concept instruction video is presented first and offers students a variety of images as well as brief descriptions and information about the concept.



Teaching the concept through a Concept Instruction Video (CIV) that includes a *brief description of the object or item*.

For example: "Dolphins are animals that live in the ocean. Dolphins are gray. They have fins that help them swim." The brief descriptions help students build deep language knowledge, promote generalization, and increase the amount of language to which students are exposed. After the concept instruction video, students work through a number of lesson types to reinforce new learning.



Teaching the concept through scene displays. "Find the dolphin."



Teaching the concept in isolation. "Find the dolphin."



Teaching the concept through categorization "Put the sea animals in the ocean."

In the images above, we see how students learn to make connections between the name of the item (dolphin) and several of its characteristics and descriptors (sea creature, gray, has fins, swims in the water).

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

In addition to the technology lessons, facilitators will enjoy the numerous* supplemental resources in the form of printable PDFs to further enrich students' language development practice. Some resources (Bingo cards, Core Word Flashcards) tie directly to the concepts from lessons and some are meant to supplement educator-led sessions in general (Game Boards and Token Boards). There are also resources that focus on certain aspects of language development, such as handouts that can be given to families as well as ones for teachers that offer suggestions on how to promote that skill at home and in the classroom. At right are some examples of the Language Accelerator supplemental resources.

* Language Accelerator is releasing in phases.
The resources released with each phase will
age up with the developmental level of the
lessons released.





Bingo (/k/ Sound)





Game Board

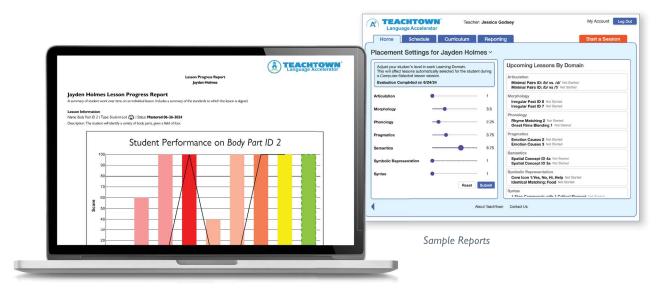


and pervasive in special education.

USE STUDENT DATA TO SUPPORT MULTIDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

With Language Accelerator, teachers and SLPs have access to the same student data, allowing for increased collaboration to contribute to a whole child approach to a student's needs. They can work together to analyze student progress in each of the 6 language domains and update IEP goals and progress monitoring notes accordingly.

Language Accelerator reports are also easy to print and share with parents and caregivers. The reports are a great way to share specific data about students' progress on individual language skills over time, as well as the amount of time spent practicing the program.



WHY LANGUAGE ACCELERATOR?

Speech or Language Impairment is the second most common disability type¹ among all American students, and the most prevalent among preschool age students.² In fact, 42 percent of students who qualify for special education services during the preschool years have a diagnosed language disorder or delay.³ **We know the need for language intervention is urgent and pervasive in special education.**

The research on the impact and importance of early intervention in language development is clear: early intervention can have a profound effect on a child's speech and language development. Effective early intervention can improve a child's ability to communicate and interact with others, strengthen their social skills and emotional regulation, and improve academic readiness.

Language Accelerator is designed to create and deliver a personalized learning path by using an assessment driven model (placement), resulting in highly individualized, effective intervention without requiring significant planning time from teachers and SLPs.

 $^{{\}bf 1.}\ \underline{https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/cgg/students-with-disabilities}$

U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts Data Warehouse (EDW): "IDEA Part B Child Count and Educational Environments Collection," 2018-2019. http://go.usa.gov/xdp4T

^{3.} https://leader.pubs.asha.org/do/10.1044/leader.AAG.25082020.30/full/



SUPPORT THE WHOLE CHILD THE WHOLE WAY

TeachTown is proud to support the whole child the whole way. Ask us about our Whole Child Packages. Whether you are serving early childhood programs or K-12 settings, TeachTown has a solution to help your teachers meet the academic, language, adaptive, social, and behavioral needs of your students.

Scan the QR code to the right to learn more.



