LevelUp READER

Parent User Guide

Help Your Child Get the Most Out of Rosen LevelUp

Using LevelUp at Home

Directions for the Successful Use of the LevelUp Adaptive Reading Platform

Call Us at: 800-237-9932 or Visit Us at: levelupreader.net

Dear Parent,

Your child's school has selected LevelUp as an important resource to support their reading journey. By understanding how LevelUp works and your child's experience on the platform, you can encourage and contribute to their mastery of basic literacy skills. LevelUp benefits every reader from PreK to Grade 6 as they first learn to read, then provides rich authentic content as they begin reading to learn.

Rosen has been publishing high-interest, curriculum-correlated materials since 1950. Our books and materials are used everywhere children are reading in the United States, and our presence is ever-expanding across the globe. There are more than 3,800 English language books on LevelUp, all of which are real books that have been recorded and adapted for digital presentation. There are also more than 700 Spanish and bilingual titles that can help children from Spanish-speaking homes make the transition from home language to instructional language.

The LevelUp platform understands your child's individual needs and responds to them. The first time your child logs in to LevelUp, they will take an intake assessment. The assessment determines their starting reading or Lexile® level. Lexile is also a way of measuring how difficult a text is to read and understand. Once LevelUp knows your child's individual Lexile level, it will recommend books in a range 100L points below to 50L points above their Lexile number. In simple terms, it means the books recommended will be just right—not too difficult, and not too easy. This assures that your child is always presented a "just right" reading challenge.

LevelUp periodically reassesses your child's reading level in order to recommend increasingly more challenging books that precisely match your child's progress. LevelUp puts the power of new technology into the literacy efforts of educators and parents. The advanced AI (artificial intelligence) in LevelUp is very powerful, and sophisticated enough that it can maintain instructional momentum and help your child progress even with busy teachers or limited parental involvement! Such is the power of LevelUp!

There is much more to LevelUp than just reading, too. Sophisticated gaming environments are provided as a reward to incentivize children to engage in their own educational process. This parent guide will introduce you to that and the many other features that make LevelUp an effective and fun-to-use platform for reading skill development.

All of us at the Rosen Publishing Group who have worked hard to create LevelUp, a truly twenty-first-century teaching tool, join with your child's school, teachers, and you in wishing every student well on the journey toward literacy and the truly amazing world it opens for all!

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Accessing LevelUp

Welcome! This parent handbook is intended as a handy guide for you as your child starts to read on LevelUp. This robust adaptive reading platform is accessible from computers and mobile devices with an internet connection, including tablets and cell phones.

LEVELUP INCLUDES:

- **Systematic phonics practice with 110 phonics-related interactive books and 52 decodable books**
- **Thousands of additional authentic fiction and nonfiction digital texts**
- **Hundreds of topics at age-appropriate comprehension levels for your child**
- **More than 700 Spanish and bilingual titles**

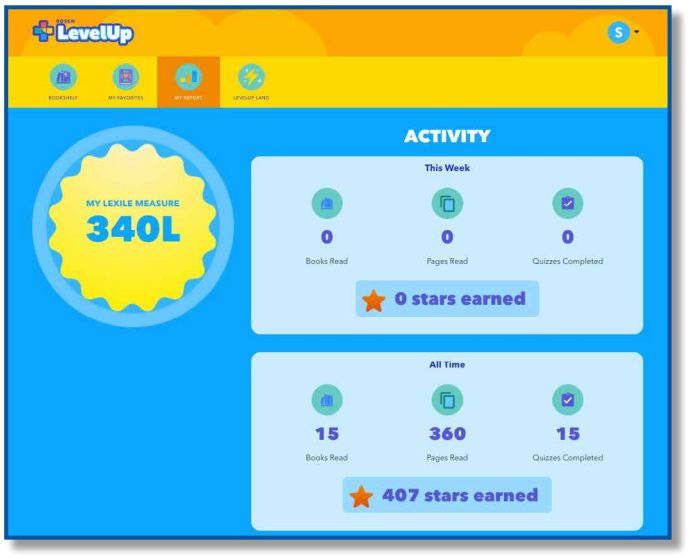
Research shows that student academic performance is greatly improved when reading and writing are encouraged at home. LevelUp was created as an instructional platform that allows teachers to assign specific reading to students, and as a free reading platform for your child to use when they are logged in at home!

You can play a key role in your child's reading skill development by encouraging them to complete homework assignments as well as explore the platform to find and read content that interests them.

Motivating Reluctant Readers

LevelUp includes 10 different digital gaming environments within LevelUp Land. Your child earns rewards for time spent reading either assigned titles or books they choose on their own. They can use these rewards to create their own unique play experiences. This encourages all children to engage in literacy activities.

If your child is a reluctant reader, besides LevelUp Land, there are simple strategies families can use to motivate interest in reading, such as:



- **Read books with your child**
- **Have your child turn off audio and read to you**
- **Discuss the characters and events from books that you read together**
- **Make connections from what was read to real-life experiences, people, or places**
- **Ask questions—this confirms that your child understands and also gives them practice in answering text-dependent questions**
- **Have your child illustrate places, characters, or events from stories**
- **Celebrate their growth and success**

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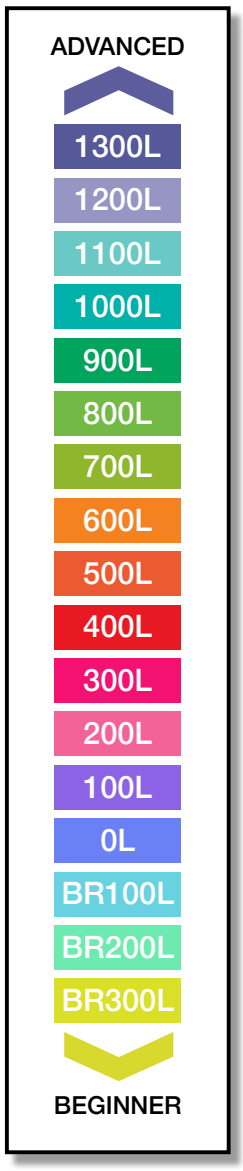
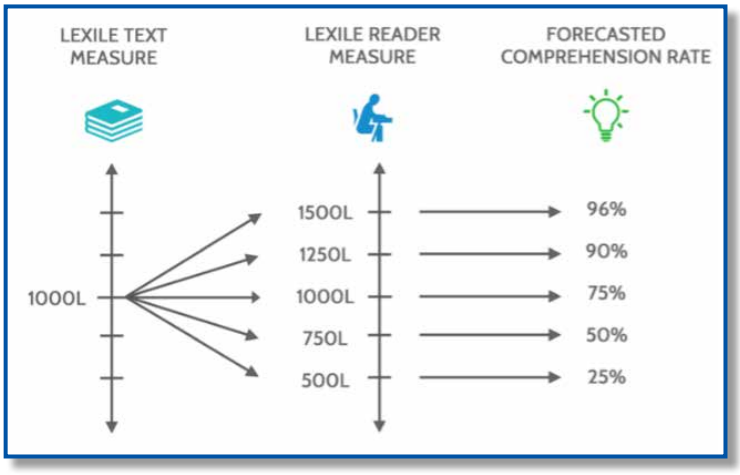


Your Child's Lexile® Measures

Built into LevelUp is an automatic system that recommends books to your child at appropriate levels of understanding. It is based on the MetaMetrics® Lexile Framework for Reading, which determines both the reading difficulty of books and each child's current reading level.

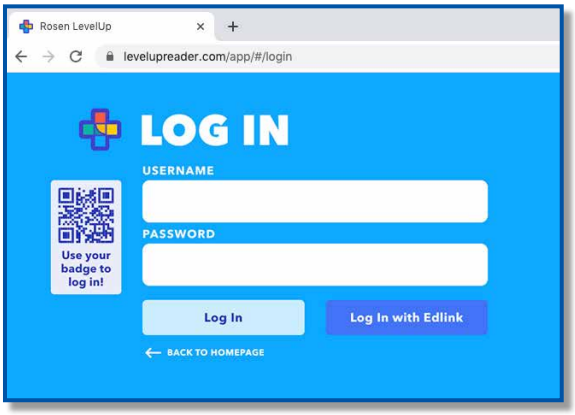
Most early readers—or those who cannot read yet—are given a BR (beginning reader) prefix and assigned a numerical Lexile level after the Intake Assessment. More proficient readers might be assigned a 150L to 350L Lexile or higher depending upon reading proficiency.

Once the starting reading level is determined, first books are recommended. Titles are recommended in a variety of subject areas, which can be seen by scrolling down the Bookshelf page. All of the high-quality digital books in the LevelUp library are aligned to the same Lexile Framework. This means that the books recommended are not difficult to the point of frustration, but are in an appropriate range so your child can understand the text and be provided with just enough of a challenge to promote reading growth.



Logging In

Every child receives a unique username and password from their teacher. Their teacher may also have sent home a print QR code to make it easier for very young children to log in. The login page for LevelUp is: https://levelupreader.com/app/#/login



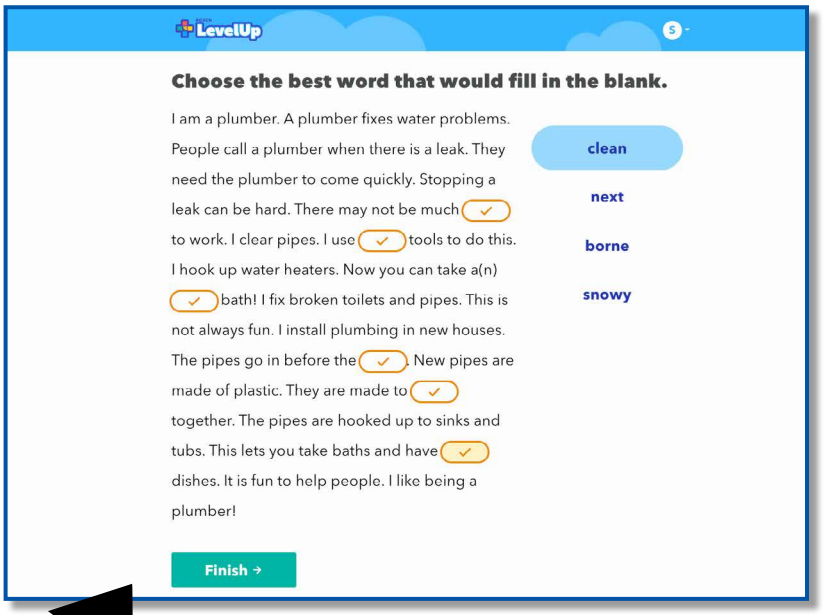
IF YOU RECEIVED A QR CODE, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. **Click on the QR code symbol on the login page**
2. **Enable your device's camera**
3. **Hold it up in front of the camera on your device to automatically log in to your child's account**

Otherwise, enter your child's username and password in the spaces shown and you will arrive at the Bookshelf page. This is the main page from which your child can access all parts of LevelUp.

Assessments

The first time your child logs in, they are given an Intake Assessment. This requires your child to answer only what they can on the test. Once they have completed this assessment, they will be assigned a starting reading level. You can see your child's reading level on the Lexile® scale by selecting My Report on the Bookshelf page.



As your child reads books on the platform, embedded measures or "benchmarks" periodically monitor reading activity and growth by assigning short "testlets" or "fill-in-the-blank" paragraphs. These are commonly referred to as **Cloze** passages by educators.

The scores on these testlets provide data for your child's teacher over time that help track your child's reading progress and assign new Lexile levels and books. It also guides the platform to recommend slightly more difficult books to challenge your child. **The platform provides a "heads up" that a short testlet is ready by displaying this graphic**.

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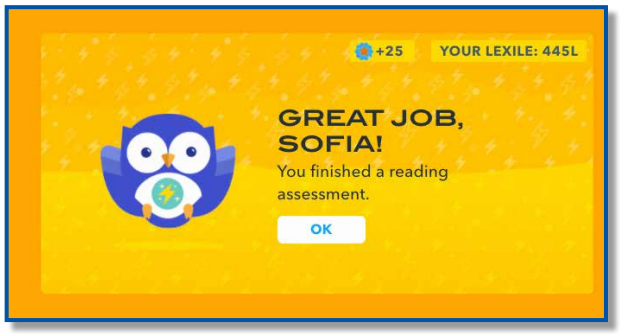
Quizzes

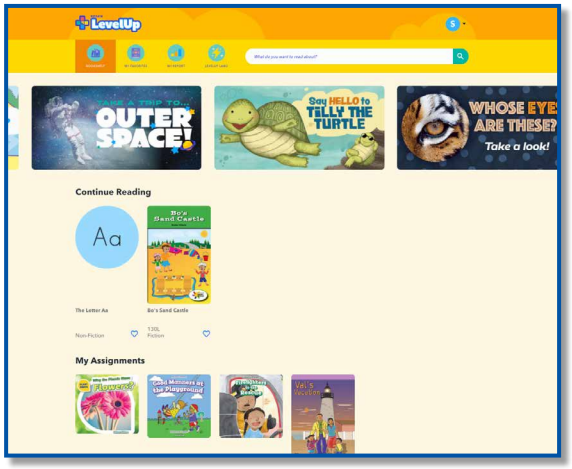
The system is always checking in and monitoring your child's reading growth. When the system has gathered enough new information on your child's progress, the "It's Time to Level Up!" signal appears to prompt a short testlet. This is an important part of the LevelUp program, and it is not optional. Please do not help your child with these quizzes.



For additional information about a child's specific literacy skills aligned to standards, teachers may choose to assign quizzes at the end of books. If you have several children using LevelUp, you may notice that quizzes are turned off for one and on for another, depending upon teacher preferences and knowledge of the individual child.

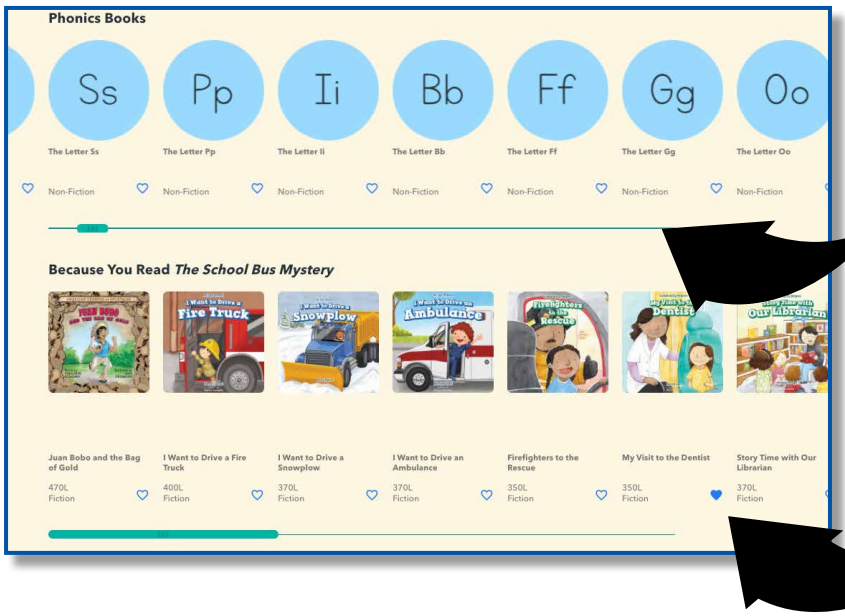
Navigating the Student Experience

The Bookshelf page is the first page your child sees when they log in.



THERE, THEY WILL SEE BANNERS OF:

- **Most current or featured texts**
- **Books their teacher has assigned them to read**
- **Phonics books**
- **Carousels of books categorized by topics that are recommended reading**



The titles in these recommended subject area carousels are selected relative to your child's current reading level. **Sliding the green bar below each carousel moves the books in that row into sight**.

Children can select any book they want to read by clicking on the cover. **Books within the Bookshelf can be saved into the child's favorites collection by selecting the heart icon below the covers**. Saved books appear under My Favorites on the Bookshelf page.

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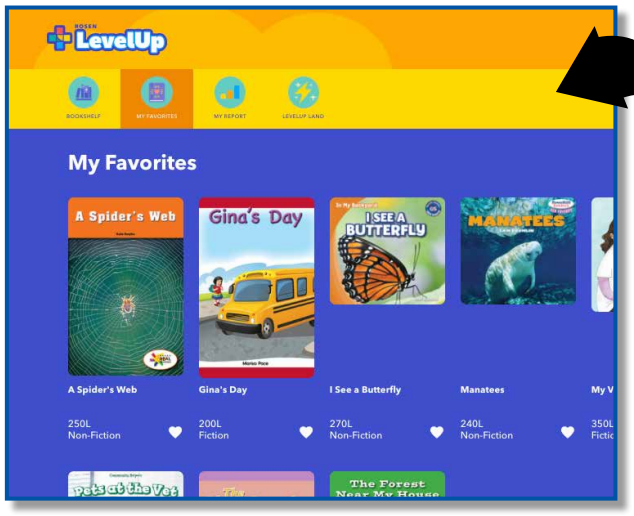


Children also have a menu of tabs at the top of their Bookshelf page that allows them to move to each of the identified areas. LevelUp was built for children and navigation is very simple—no feature or function on the platform is ever more than one or two clicks away!

Independent Reading

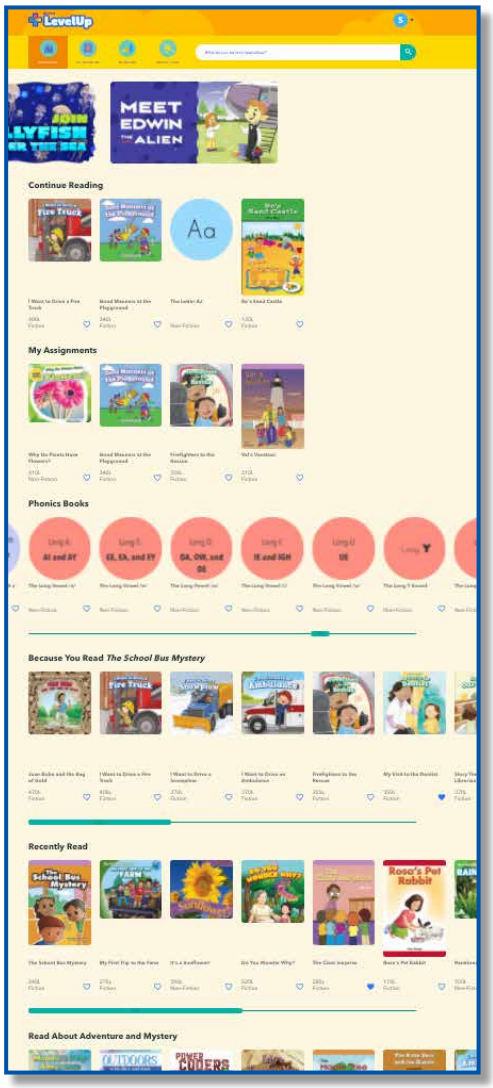
After logging in to LevelUp, most children can navigate intuitively on the platform, explore books, and play in LevelUp Land. The bright graphics and simple navigation make it fun and easy for children to read independently.

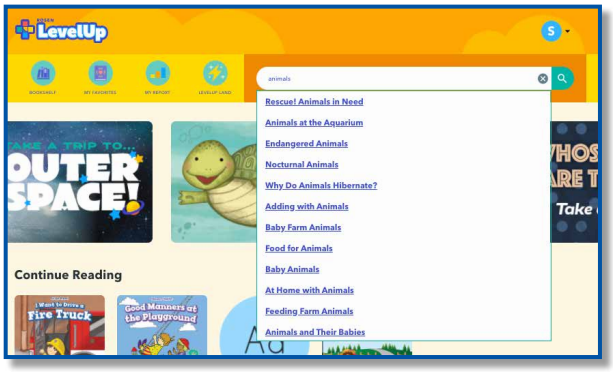
Independent reading is an important part of each child's reading skill development. Teachers use LevelUp to assign specific reading material to students in order to achieve important educational goals. But LevelUp is also structured so children can select material they want to read on their own. Being able to exercise control over your reading preferences is an important part of creating a lifelong love of reading. And just as with assigned material, students can earn game stars that count toward playtime in LevelUp Land.

There are two ways your child can find materials that meet their personal interests on LevelUp.

By scrolling down the Bookshelf page, you will see a number of carousels identified by subject area. These are books that LevelUp is recommending to your child based on reading or Lexile level.

All of the titles on these carousels will be achievable reading challenges for you child—not too easy and not too hard.





Your child can also search for books of particular interest by typing into the search bar on the top right of their screen. A drop-down menu will appear with a listing of every book title in which the search term entered appears.

Title listings may include both Spanish and English language titles as there are more than 700 Spanish and bilingual titles on LevelUp. The titles are live links, and simply clicking on them will place the book on the Bookshelf where it can be opened. It is important to note that searching for books can result in listings that are above your child's current reading level. This is an acceptable outcome as readers motivated to know more about a favored subject area will benefit from the additional challenge.

Book Controls

When a child selects a book, it first opens in Read Along Mode. In this mode, the text is read aloud to the child while the words being read are highlighted. Pages advance automatically through to the end of the book. All books on LevelUp, including Spanish and bilingual titles, are recorded. Read Along Mode supports your child's initial reading skill development.

FEATURES YOU WILL NOTICE:

1. All books are recorded at a speed that reflects fluent reading. Research shows that early readers benefit from listening to expressive reading at a conversational rate. Because the books are read aloud, even early readers have access to content on all levels.
2. Read Aloud Mode provides a second option: in this mode, the sound is turned off by selecting the speaker icon. Highlighting will still appear and the reading goal is for the child to be able to read the text at the pace set by the highlighting. In Read Aloud Mode, pages will advance to the end of the book.
3. A complete reading challenge is presented in the third mode. With sound turned off and using only the margin controls on the side panel, the child is able to read the book at their own pace using the green arrow on the right side of the screen.
4. If the reader wants to enlarge a page, they can do so by selecting the magnifying glass icon below the book and to the right. From there, the student can click on the book to magnify the text or an image.

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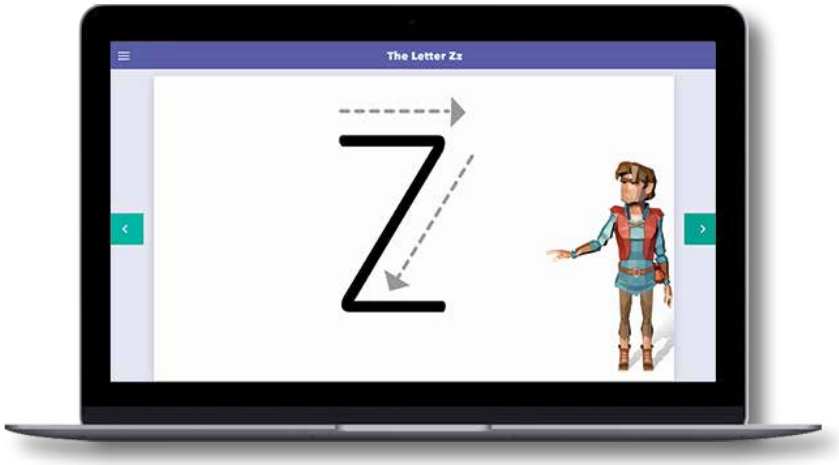
Phonics

LevelUp provides access to 110 phonics books, covering concepts from emergent letter-sound correspondence to compound words. Each book has engaging activities that encourage learning through:

- **Letter tracing**
- **Picture and word matching**
- **Word mazes**
- **Word searches**
- **Circling the correct word**
- **Pronunciation of letters and letter blends**
- **Sorting word families**
- **Creating compound words**
- **Letter recognition**



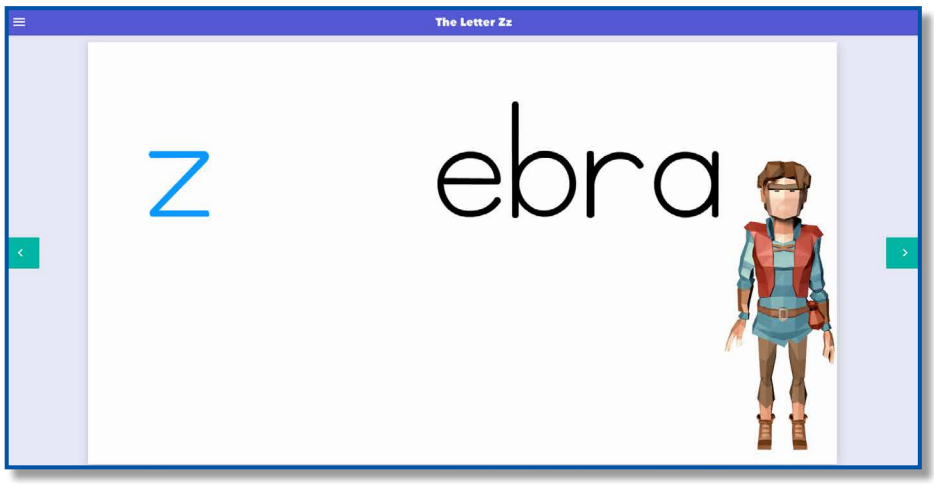
The child hears the sounds pronounced correctly by authentic voice-over professionals to model fluency. These books can be reread as many times as needed.

Phonics instruction is a very common foundational instructional technique. If your child is a beginning reader, practicing phonics titles together helps create the necessary understanding to develop basic reading skills and advance to decoding.

Decoding

LevelUp provides the benefits of two digital literacy platforms in one. The complete phonics program builds young learners' grasp of important concepts and the mechanics of decoding through a multisensory and engaging digital experience.

Children hear sounds and blends, trace letters, match beginning and ending letters, and practice identifying letters and sounds in simple words. These activities can be repeated to review, reteach, and reinforce each new idea.



As your child develops their phonics skills, they can acces our collection of 52 decodable books, designed to allow your child to apply their phonics skills in connected text.

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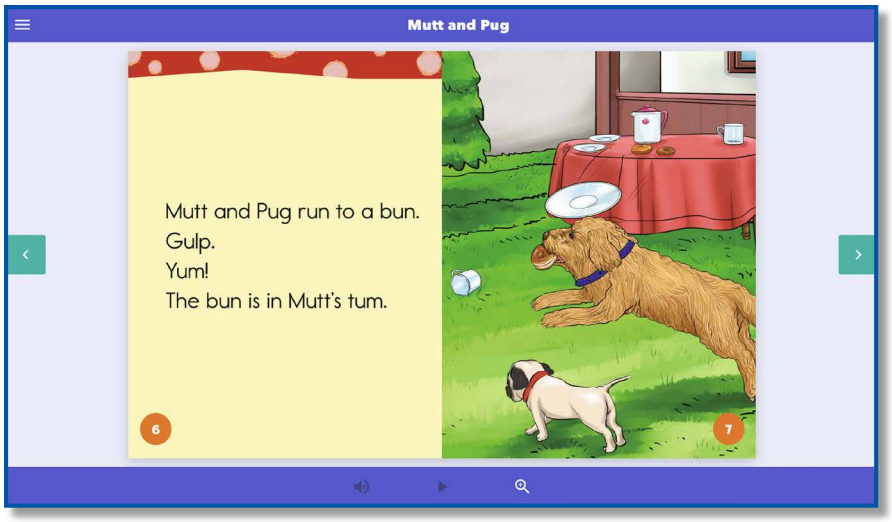
Without the need for a separate resource, children can move directly from phonics practice into decoding to apply their new skills and read controlled vocabulary texts. These allow application of new knowledge, build confidence, and strengthen reading stamina, all of which are important for literacy proficiency.

Using LevelUp with Modifications and Accommodations

If your child struggles with decoding or requires accommodations per an IEP, LevelUp can provide the support they need to build their skills and meet their goals.

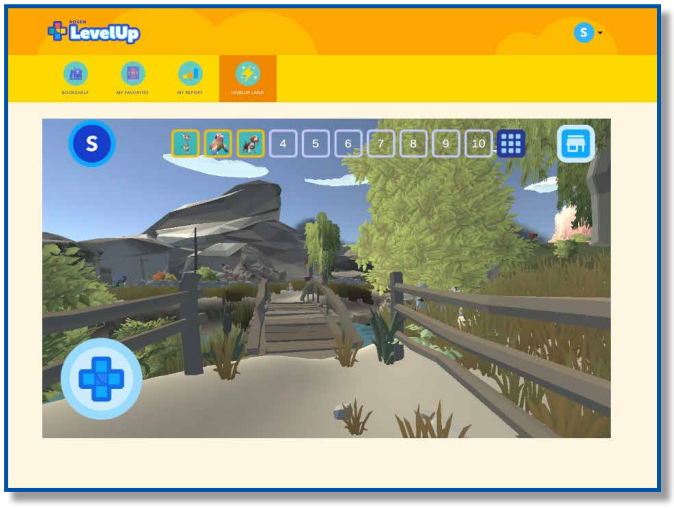
THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO:

- **Read independently**
- **Go back and reread the book as many times as needed to build fluency and support comprehension**
- **Use embedded audio to access material on a Lexile level above their decodability through listening. This feature allows earlier decoders to access rigorous material they may not otherwise be able to read.**



- **Adjust volume and use the magnifying feature as needed so they can become proficient in using the program**

The phonics activities provide your child with multisensory practice along with multiple repetitions to allow for review and reinforcement of new skills. If your child is using LevelUp on a device with a touch screen, they can trace letters when prompted using their finger or a stylus.



Because LevelUp Land rewards are not tied to level of reading ability but rather to the amount of time spent reading, we often find that children who struggle to read work harder, are willing to spend more time, earn more stars, and therefore create much more intriguing and complex gaming environments compared to those of peers who have already developed more advanced skills. LevelUp is designed to allow all children to shine in their own unique ways as they grow and learn.