

Learning A-Z has merged Headsprout’s two elementary reading products — Headsprout Early Reading and Headsprout Reading Comprehension — into one adaptive, effective, and fun K-5 online reading program. From introducing early readers to key reading fundamentals to growing reading comprehension skills for more established readers, Headsprout is the perfect resource to help children become capable and confident readers.

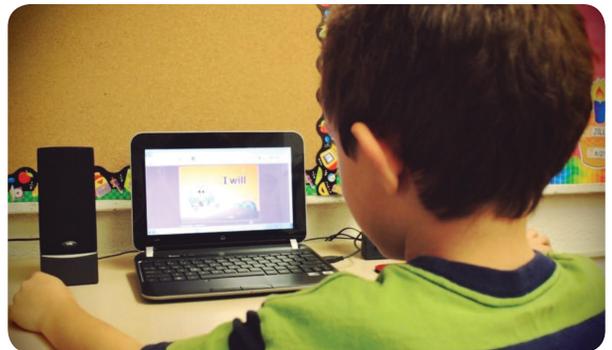
David Gregory School, Paramus, NJ Headsprout teaches autistic children to read

At David Gregory School, Headsprout builds on the primary teaching methodology for children with autism, and “the kids love it.”

A unique academic offering

David Gregory School is a small, private suburban school located in Paramus, New Jersey. It was founded in 1993 to serve children with developmental disabilities, including autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD). With just 35 students, a full-day, 11.5-month program, and a 1:1 student/teacher ratio, the students at David Gregory School get the individualized attention they need. But teaching them to read is a challenge.

David Gregory School is not divided into grades the way traditional schools are. Instead, each child is assessed individually, an educational plan is developed based on his or her needs, and progress is monitored daily. The school welcomes students from preschool (age 3) through the elementary years (age 14), but is able to accept children up to age 21. Attracting students from many school districts in New



“Our program is research-based and utilizes principles of Applied Behavior Analysis,” explains Stephen Wuensch, a behaviorist at David Gregory since 2003. “Our purpose is to provide the most effective education based on the findings and practice of the science of behavior.” David Gregory School was created specifically to meet the needs of students with multiple disabilities, but today it primarily serves students who are on the autism spectrum.

“It’s fun. It’s well designed. And our kids respond positively to being on a computer.”

Jersey and New York, the school is ethnically diverse but predominantly male. To take advantage of such a unique academic offering, some parents are willing to have their children travel more than an hour and a half each way.

Headsprout fulfills a specific need at David Gregory

A few years ago, Wuensch read about an online reading program for new readers – Headsprout Early Reading – in Dr. Douglas Greer’s *Verbal Behavior Analysis: Inducing and Expanding New Verbal Capabilities in Children with Language Delays*. Greer, who teaches at Columbia University, is on the forefront of Verbal Behavior Analysis. He referred in his book to the Headsprout program as “a valuable resource.”

