



eKidz.eu

The eKidz.eu methodology
for learning to read



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Motivated children, inspired teachers and satisfied parents

The eKidz.eu reading application is a programme built on levels of gradually increasing complexity. It accompanies and guides children aged 5 to 10 in a playful and intuitive way while developing their language and reading skills. It is aimed at beginners, first-time readers and advanced first-time readers. The programme also offers valuable support for those students with reading difficulties. Besides the conventional pedagogical uses the eKidz programme can be used in the acquisition and understanding of letter-sound relationships and the decoding process.

The texts, differentiated according to reading level (so-called pattern books), progress from short, repetitive sentence structures and simple, monosyllabic vocabulary to more complex text patterns. At all levels of difficulty, the word and sentences boundaries are clearly defined; the deduction of meaning and the holistic understanding of words and groups of words is supported by images promotes fluency and meaningful reading.

Various technical functions and playful illustrations along with reading exercises have a motivating effect while facilitating the learning process. Professional speakers act as linguistic models for the spoken words highlighted in colour - these can be quietly read in tandem and followed with a finger. The digital nature of the program makes learning to read a flexible option, suited to a variety of environments - at home, in the classroom or on the go. The programme offers different reading options:

reading aloud, recording and playback functions, reading along as well as the choice of texts at the respective reading level - all of which allow the development of an individual, independent reading practice without the direct supervision of parents or teachers.

eKidz.eu texts cover a range of fiction and non-fiction topics taken from everyday life and science, and in a variety of forms, such as prose and poetry. Supportive illustrations improve the understanding of the text, engaging their imaginations and pricking curiosity of beginner readers. Progressing through the levels is matched by student's increase in skills and the confidence of reading ability - this improves the reader's self-image and leads to further reading experiences and progression. Weaker readers and students who need scaffolding have the option of differentiated digital support and are met at their points of need. Students with good reading skills are given incentives to improve and progress to the next level of more complex text.

The eKidz.eu programme is of great value to preschool and children in the first two grades of primary school and even in the third grade; in fact the eKidz.eu reading promotion programme is even being used for the fourth grade. The programme's versatility make it an attractive and viable option for a number of settings and scenarios including: teacher supervised group work, kindergarten, individual work, work with parents, special educational needs or reading groups are just a few examples.

Methodology at the text level

eKidz.eu provides 11 differentiated reading levels covering an extensive range of text types. It offers a sensible introduction to reading with gradual advancement and content for more advanced readers. The digital nature of the programme accommodates a wide range of genres and forms, exposing students to a variety of texts which supports the development of the reading experience and the enjoyment of literature. There are currently 50+ books in the programme, offering a wide choice according to personal preferences and ability. The concept of so-called "Pattern Books" forms the basis for a meaningful and gentle introduction to reading and is based on the following principles:

- Easy readability including high frequency vocabulary
- Simple and logical sentence structures
- Supporting illustrations
- Repetitive use of individual words and phrases
- Rhythmic language
- Familiar concepts and settings
- Level appropriate linguistic structures and patterns
- Level appropriate punctuation

On the basis of this didactically sound quality framework, eKidz.eu has developed text material at different levels, whereby meaningful reading is supported and promoted by comprehension questions. If the essence of the text is not captured when reading it for the first time, the feedback serves as a yardstick for one's own performance as well as an incentive to read the text again.

The use of this procedure has proven itself and demonstrably promotes linguistic expression and success in learning to read. Successful reading experiences have a highly motivating effect on the learners and set in motion a positive cycle consisting of reading motivation, further reading experience and the associated continuous improvement in reading skills.

The eKidz.eu program offers a variety of approaches and thereby facilitates a very individual approach to the reading process. The reading function opens up linguistic models that specifically promote the student's pronunciation and, particularly when reading aloud, offer a link between what is heard and what is read. The reading speed increases according to the respective reading level. Similarly, the font size is adapted to the relative reading level. The possibility of finger guidance via touch screen offers an additional orientation option.

A clearly defined layout, sensible print formats, comfortable line spacing and the absence of hyphenation guarantee a smooth reading experience.

All texts meet the following requirements for primary school books:

- Structure of the text
- Uniform tense
- Use of suitable words
- Varied sentence structure
- Use of literal speech
- Introduction and conclusion of a story
- Expression of thoughts, feelings and moods
- Formation of the climax of a story
- Content and linguistic conciseness in factual texts
- Consistent argumentation
- Politeness in letters
- Optical structure of all texts.

When selecting modern topics from everyday life and science, we focus on selected content from home and general knowledge lessons in elementary school. This gives children additional support in learning key vocabulary.



11 Differentiated reading levels - the USP

The eKidz.eu program encourages children to promote reading in accordance with their own individual skills and abilities. The reading levels were developed by experienced class teachers in cooperation with scientists and educational specialists based on the latest research results.

The following overview shows the special classification features of the readers and the criteria for the individual levels of difficulty. They allow an effortless classification into the learning and reading program of eKidz.eu and can also be consulted by teachers and parents when assessing the reading ability of the students.

The texts of eKidz.eu are divided into four parts: beginners, early readers, intermediate readers, advanced readers. Within each group there are further gradations, each with three levels of difficulty. The division into groups takes place on the basis of holistic assessment criteria, while an allocation to the individual difficulty levels within the group is also made according to word and sentence complexity.

Step	Texts and images	Advantages for students
Group A Levels 1-3 Beginner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform arrangement of texts • Orientation through repetitive sentence structures • Treatment of familiar content through age-appropriate topics • Illustrations support reading comprehension • Build up of key words through the use of common words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pictorial representations support text anticipation and have a motivating effect • Automation of the letter-sound assignment • Reading aloud with syllables promotes the recording of the word structure • Emphasis on Avoidance of demotivating excessive demands as well as reading incentives for fast readers Enjoyment • When starting the reading process
Group B Level 4-6 Early Reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily comprehensible content has a supportive effect when reading is more demanding • Simple sentence patterns offer learning potential through numerous variations • 2-3 lines of text per page and constant repetitions of the visual vocabulary promote the reading process promotes • Multi-channel access motivates and text comprehension is • The structure of the language is based on oral use of the language • Gradual increase in the number of words from the basic vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions and text contents can be increasingly foreseen by means of the visual representations • Letters and their sounds as well as frequently used words are practiced repeatedly. • Slowly increasing reading
Group C Levels 7-9 Intermediate Reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple sentence structures, which are, however, constantly varied • Promotion of reading skills through longer sentences and several lines of text per page • Use of new words and foreign words • Gradual expansion of the basic vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The anticipation of actions and textual content by referring to the book illustrations is retained. • Knowledge of sentence structure and punctuation increases. • Reading speed increases noticeably.
Group D Levels 10 to 12 Advanced Reader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence structures change regularly. Approaches to difficult actions • Texts are in the foreground, images no longer continuously support text comprehension • Complexity of vocabulary increases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge transfer through comprehensive factual texts • Reading speed reaches 100 words per minute



eKidz.eu is a modern and flexible program to learn to read.

eKidz.eu provides teachers with an innovative set of instruments to observe and record the level of development of the pupils while reading. With eKidz.eu teachers can continuously and individually control and support the learning process of their students. The content of eKidz.eu has been carefully developed didactically.

eKidz.eu is accessible to children every day and in every environment: in the school class, at home, when visiting relatives or on vacation!

