

EXCEL is a reading intervention designed to help bridge the gap for struggling readers in 1st & 2nd grades.

Why is my child in EXCEL?

At York Elementary, teachers are continually assessing your child's reading progress. Your child was placed in EXCEL based on his/her performance on reading assessments like the DIBELS, STAR , ORF and MAPS test, as well as classroom teacher recommendations. Reading specialists check your child's progress each month. EXCEL is a fluid program which means that children can exit and enter the program at any time throughout the school year, based upon their performance on reading assessments and classroom performance. We are very fortunate to be able to offer the EXCEL program at Y.E.S. and we have seen great gains in reading scores over the past several years. Reading specialists work closely with classroom teachers to reinforce content and evaluate student progress.

How does EXCEL help my child with reading?

EXCEL uses a program called **WonderWorks by McGraw-Hill**. It follows along with the classroom reading units' content, but dives deeper into areas that are common for struggling readers. **Wonderworks** focuses on the priority skills children need in order to succeed at learning to read. Priority skills are the critical elements of early reading - - phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension. Scientifically based research has shown that these skills are the foundations of early reading and must be taught in a systemic manner.

What does an EXCEL reading block look like for my child?

Your child will be in the EXCEL reading intervention for 25-30 minutes each day. Instruction will be based on reteaching of priority skills in the **Wonderworks** intervention program.

Who teaches my child during EXCEL and what are the classrooms doing at this time?

Mrs. Judy Danielson is the reading specialist who teaches **Wonderworks** program in EXCEL for first grade, and Jen Bartholomew is the reading specialist who teaches **Wonderworks** program in EXCEL in second grade. Typically, the classroom teachers are doing review lessons or students are working independently in the classroom during this time.

How can I help my child improve his/her reading skills at home?

Read with your child and reinforce the skills that are being taught at school. Help your child connect with the text by talking about story elements while reading (setting, characters, events). Help them see in their mind what they are reading and relate to the characters based on their own experiences. Help them build a strong sight word base by practicing sight words and spelling words at home with flashcards or interactive apps. Ask your child's teacher about his/her reading progress on a continual basis and what more you can be doing at home to help.