



# Seeing Stars®: for Phonological and Orthographic Processing in Reading and Spelling

The Seeing Stars program, by Nanci Bell, develops **symbol imagery**—the ability to visualize sounds and letters in words—as a basis for orthographic awareness, phonological awareness, phonic decoding, word recognition, and contextual reading fluency.

**Students/setting:** struggling readers, special education, dyslexia, RTI/MTSS, intervention, high-impact tutoring, ELA curriculum supplement

**Staff:** Resource/Special education staff, reading interventionists, dyslexia specialists, SLPs, paraprofessionals, K-2 classroom teachers, tutors

**Grade Levels:** Pre K-2 (Tier 1), K-12 (Tier 2), K-12 (Tier 3), K-12 (Special Education)

**Group size:** 3-5 (Tier 2 and 3 intervention); whole class (Tier 1 developmental)

**Lessons:** 45 - 60 minutes daily, 80-120 lessons\*.

\*Lesson times are minimums. Some students may require more intensive intervention; daily times and total lessons should be adjusted accordingly (e.g., 90 minutes daily, if needed).

## Instructional focus:

- Sensory-cognitive skills – symbol imagery and phonological awareness
  - Phoneme/grapheme mapping
  - Phoneme/grapheme manipulation, i.e., additions, deletions, substitutions, shifts
- Components of reading – phonics, orthography, sight word recognition, spelling, fluency
  - Progression through skill development in essential decoding tasks
  - Automaticity in word reading skill
- Structured – explicit, systematic, cumulative
  - Simple to complex, following scope and sequence
  - Teacher-led, Socratic questioning
- Diagnostic and prescriptive
  - Formative assessment
  - Differentiated instruction
- Application to Connected Text and Comprehension

**Evidence-Based:** Yes [Learn more](#)

## Professional Development

Four levels of professional learning: advance teacher competencies and school capacity

- Level 1 – live, online workshops or a face-to-face group inservice (13.5 hours)
- Level 2 – online review courses and advanced training modules (annual membership)
- Level 3 – job-embedded professional development (1-2 semesters)
- Level 4 – comprehensive school partnership model (minimum one school year)

## Required Materials

- Seeing Stars Kit Instructors Kit, available through [Gander Publishing](#), per teacher
- Teacher's manual (included in kit)
- Decoding Workbook set, per student



CASE has officially endorsed the research-validated Seeing Stars® Program.

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