



Transformative Foundational Learning

Learning poverty remains a global challenge: in low- and middle-income countries, between 50 and 80 percent of children do not have the foundational skills they need by age 10, and more than 250 million children and young people are out of school. Far too many do not experience the high-quality teaching they need to achieve and prepare for the future.

This inequity of opportunity and quality is compounded by gender, age, disability, poverty, social status, and conflict, and those who are most in need are often the least prepared for success.

EDC's [Ready Right Now](#) foundational learning package provides modular resources in literacy, mathematics, and science that support education systems to build sustainable, locally led, high-quality teaching and learning programs for all. Designed purposefully for challenging, resource-lean contexts, the Ready Right Now components are evidence-based, harness local strengths, and can be implemented at reasonable, sustainable cost.

READY RIGHT NOW INCLUDES:

Start Right Now
Early Childhood

Read Right Now
Literacy

Real Math Now
*Numeracy and
Mathematics*

Science For All
Science

For more than twenty years, Ready Right Now elements have been created, deployed and updated based on best results in partnership with governments around the world to ensure that they:



Enhance the capabilities of educators with limited training



Empower communities where reading and writing are not widespread



Revitalize overcrowded and resource-limited classrooms



Enrich multilingual environments



Strengthen systems for continued learning improvement



Sustain long-term, positive change

Elements of the Ready Right Now foundational learning package include:

Early Childhood

Start Right Now supports equitable high-quality early childhood development that provides young children with a strong start and their families and communities with resources to support them. Start Right Now is a simple, cost-effective, integrated early childhood solution for low-resource contexts that links health, education, and workforce development, enhancing caring, learning, and earning for all participants. Community members are trained to facilitate the delivery of a high-quality preschool program for children from age 3 to primary school entry using EDC's proven interactive audio instruction (IAI). Facilitators also receive soft skills development and support in establishing child care centers as small businesses. This provides livelihood opportunities that increase the availability of early childhood care and learning options and enhance local economic development.

*Start Right Now
is recognized as
one of the world's
most innovative
education programs*

Start Right Now iterations are built to last – as in **Zanzibar**, where our RISE and ZTUR programs have been adopted by the government, expanded to hundreds more schools, and sustained, with RISE students still outperforming better-resourced peers nearly a decade later. They are recognized globally: the HundrEd Initiative selected the EDC-designed Tikichuela as one of the world's 100 most innovative education programs after language-minority students in **Paraguay** achieved a 16-point score increase over dominant language peers in only 5 months.

Literacy

Read Right Now supports strong systems for literacy instruction and promotion through an evidence-based approach that builds skills in reading, writing, and oral communication. Read Right Now builds teacher capacity, provides resources for learners and educators, engages families and communities, and ensures that policies and systems for literacy are coherent and evidence-based. Content is designed to be relevant to learners' lives, including exposure from the very beginning to literature and nonfiction texts, and practical literacy resources for youth navigating health, civic responsibilities, and employment. By approaching literacy as a tool for thinking and problem-solving,



Read Right Now enables individuals and communities to unlock the individual and collective power of literacy.

Read Right Now is rich in content and guidance and simple for teachers to use. It is tailored to meet the needs of any context and has been applied equally effectively in early grade classrooms and low-literacy youth and adult learning environments. More than 20 million children and youth and 500,000 teachers have benefited from Read Right Now's locally relevant, research-based reading, writing, and oral language development approach. In rigorous evaluations, Read Right Now students consistently and dramatically outperform their peers in comparison groups. They demonstrate significant learning gains in foundational literacy skills, fluency, comprehension, and enthusiasm for literacy in their lives. Read Right Now-based remediation and targeted instruction programming consistently support literacy recovery and improvement for students learning at all levels, both in formal schools and in non-formal learning contexts.

In **Mali**, for instance, Read Right Now students gained 15% fluency in 1 ½ years, in communities wracked by conflict, hunger, and other schooling interruptions. In **Uganda**, after 2 years of COVID-19 school closures, students' literacy levels tripled (and in some languages, quadrupled) through home- and school-based interventions. In **Senegal**, where 24% of Read Right Now students could not read a single word and 50% could not answer a single comprehension question when the program began, they averaged fluency rates of 81 words per minute and 95% comprehension after only a year and a half.

Numeracy and Mathematics

Real Math Now is a purposeful and practical mathematics program with a focus on problem-solving, incorporating number sense, measurement, geometry, spatial thinking, algebraic thinking, data analysis, and interpretation. It equips teachers to infuse language, thought, and meaning into mathematics instruction, use open-ended, challenging tasks that motivate early grade and accelerated nonformal learners to engage in meaningful problem-solving, and enhance students' understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of mathematics.

Even in the most resource-restricted contexts, Real Math Now helps students to understand that mathematics is more than just computation and prepares them to solve relevant, real-life problems.

Real Math Now also links mathematics to literacy practices, helping students develop strategies for solving problems imaginatively by using prior knowledge, asking relevant questions, making predictions, and identifying solutions.

In **Rwanda**, Real Math Now integrated math and language for students in grades 1–4, Teachers developed a deeper understanding of how to use numeracy and literacy concepts in everyday applications, and students showed significant improvement in both literacy and math. In conflict-affected **Mali**, daily Real Math Now activities linked both to literacy activities and to the Living Together social-emotional curriculum. Students from the accelerated two-year program transitioning into fourth grade outperformed their peers in formal schools. In **Liberia**, 81% of youth in EDC's accelerated education program demonstrated significant improvements in numeracy after only 6 months.

READ RIGHT NOW BY THE NUMBERS:

20 million

Children and youth

+

500,000

Teachers benefitted

3x

Literacy levels improved
in Uganda

81

Words per minute fluency

+

95%

Comprehension achieved
by students in Senegal



Science

Science For All completes the foundational skills puzzle, ensuring that learners not only master the mechanics of literacy and numeracy, but also have the habits of mind and hand to put those skills to use for themselves and for their societies. Science for All's problem-solving focus fosters learners' self-motivation by connecting classroom content with broader issues in their lives and communities. Blending numeracy, literacy, and science boosts academic skills and prepares students for leadership roles in community development and in their local economies. Early engagement with science skills and practices increases equity and opportunities for students to pursue STEM careers.

Science for All leverages countries' long-term investments in literacy and mathematics and builds on more than 60 years of EDC experience in science for low-resource contexts, leveraging the school grounds and the daily lives of students and their communities, preparing teachers to serve as skilled guides for students engaging with science, and tapping into and promoting curiosity.

In **Mali**, both teachers and students increased their knowledge and demonstrated positive changes in attitudes and beliefs about science and about their self-efficacy in applying science to solve problems. Teachers' instructional practices improved and their confidence in acting as agents of change grew from their participation in Science for All. Classrooms reflected increased student engagement and exploration as well as teacher explanation, elaboration, evaluation, and integration of science with literacy and math.

Join Us! Email intl-basic-ed@edc.org for more information.

ABOUT EDC

EDC works with partners worldwide to advance every person's journey to learn, work, and be well. Since 1958, we have been a catalyst for community-led initiatives that promote sustainable change and advance solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.



Implemented alone or together, Ready Right Now components strengthen education systems in alignment with national goals and plans, providing essential thinking and interaction skills that lay the foundation for success for children and youth and help create environments in which all people can learn, work, and be well.



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