



About the UWG Pre-K Curriculum *Ready To Advance Early Learning Program*



◆ What is the Ready to Advance Curriculum?

The Ready to Advance (RTA) is a comprehensive early learning and development program. The curriculum seeks to teach the whole child by blending social and emotional learning into academic instruction. It includes teacher support for behavior, instruction, choice options, and productive classroom and play. Flexible guidelines and multifaceted progress monitoring allow for maximum individualization.

◆ What subjects does the Curriculum teach?

Subjects are referred to as 'learning domains.'

The ten 'domains' are: Social and Emotional Learning, Language and Communication, Fine Arts, Physical Development, Technology, Emergent Literacy-Reading and Social Studies, Emergent Literacy-Writing, Math and Science.

All domain skills and concepts are integrated within each lesson.

◆ How is the RTA Curriculum divided?

The RTA curriculum is divided into 10 Units, each Unit lasting three-weeks (with an optional 4th week for further ELA and Math and Science practice.) Each Unit is theme-based with an Essential Question attached. Unit themes include:

- Unit 1- All About Me
- Unit 2- Families and Friends
- Unit 3- Communities and Health

◆ Does the Curriculum align with Georgia's standards?

Yes! Georgia conducted a curriculum review in the 2019-2020 school year to identify those programs that best support Georgia's Pre-K programs and are optimally aligned with the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS). Benchmark Education Company's Ready to Advance Early Learning Program meets those standards. The curriculum also aligns with the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) Positions.

◆ How is instruction designed?

The curriculum uses a developmental “hear, see, say, do” learning progression. A 50/50 balance between teacher-directed whole-group and small group instruction, along with learning centers where students purposefully engage in activities, allows instruction to be designed to reinforce key concepts in Math, Science, Writing, Literacy, Dramatic Play, and Blocks.

◆ **What instructional resources are used?**

Books, cards, posters, and digital tools are all used as part of RTA.

All Units make use of Big Books (informational and literary), Lap Books, Small Group Readers, Trade Books, and books students can take home.

- a) Big Books provide intros to unit topics, vocabulary, and concepts. Literary big books help teach and develop concepts and vocabulary about illustrator roles, grammar and sentences etc. Informational big books help teach and develop concepts of factual information
- b) Small Books review concepts and topics
- c) Lap Books help introduce and reinforce Math- and Science-specific topics, concepts, and vocabulary
- d) Retelling cards are provided with all literary books and are designed for students to collaborate while practicing critical thinking and description skills of plot, setting, and events.
- e) Concept cards accompany informational books that are used to build students' oral vocabulary and how to ask questions about the key concepts and topics to be discussed.
- f) Sound-symbol cards help with introducing and reviewing letter sounds
- g) High-frequency word cards are used to reinforce vocabulary
- h) Shared reading posters use visual cues to review main topics and story details

◆ **What assessments are included?**

RTA comes with an Assessment Guide that presents multiple options for assessment including:

- a) Early Learning Screener: used for gathering a child's baseline competencies
- b) Observational Assessment: a formative tool used to gather data from whole-group and small-group observations
- c) Progress Monitoring: passed out on a unit-to-unit basis; progress based on teacher data
- d) Benchmark Comprehensive Assessment: measures long-term progress on occasional basis

◆ **Does the RTA curriculum have any resources for families?**

Yes! RTA provides ‘consumable’ books for each Unit. These are books used to reinforce and further extend learning beyond the classroom. The Curriculum also provides take-home activity calendars for each unit, with daily activities that students and parents/caregivers should do each day of the three-week Unit.

◆ **Does the Curriculum include digital resources?**

The entire library of Big Books and Lap Books used in the RTA curriculum are available online, where they are organized by unit in addition to other digital supports. For more information on these tools, there are video introductions available on the Ready to Advance website:

<http://www.benchmarkrta.com/digital.html>

Additional information about the program can be found here: <http://benchmarkrta.com>

The research basis for the RTA curriculum can be found: <http://benchmarkrta.com/research.html>

