

Amira Learning +
Saxon Phonics and Spelling

Teacher Implementation Manual

Explore how *Amira + Saxon Phonics and Spelling* support explicit, systematic, ESSA Strong phonics instruction.

GRADES K–2







Amira +

SAXON Phonics and Spelling

Amira + Saxon® Phonics and Spelling are backed by ESSA strong evidence bases and complement your comprehensive Language Arts program. With the perfect mix of print and digital, this solution makes it easy to pair explicit phonics instruction with 1:1 reading tutoring for all students—whether they’re demonstrating below, average, or above grade-level mastery.

What is *Saxon Phonics and Spelling*?

Saxon Phonics and Spelling is a success-oriented program that enables most children to develop a solid foundation in phonics and thus become successful readers and spellers. The phonics series, in keeping with the *Saxon* philosophy of incremental development and continual review, builds on prior learning. New learning is presented in small increments that are reviewed daily for the entire year. This method of reinforcement provides children with the practice they need to achieve success.

What is *Amira*?

Amira provides 1:1 reading tutoring, reading fluency assessment, and dyslexia risk screening—from anywhere.

After students take the reading fluency assessment, they are automatically placed into powerful 1:1 reading tutoring powered by dozens of precise micro-interventions rooted in the science of reading.



Implementation Model

The model below provides an example of how *Amira + Saxon Phonics and Spelling* work together in your classroom.



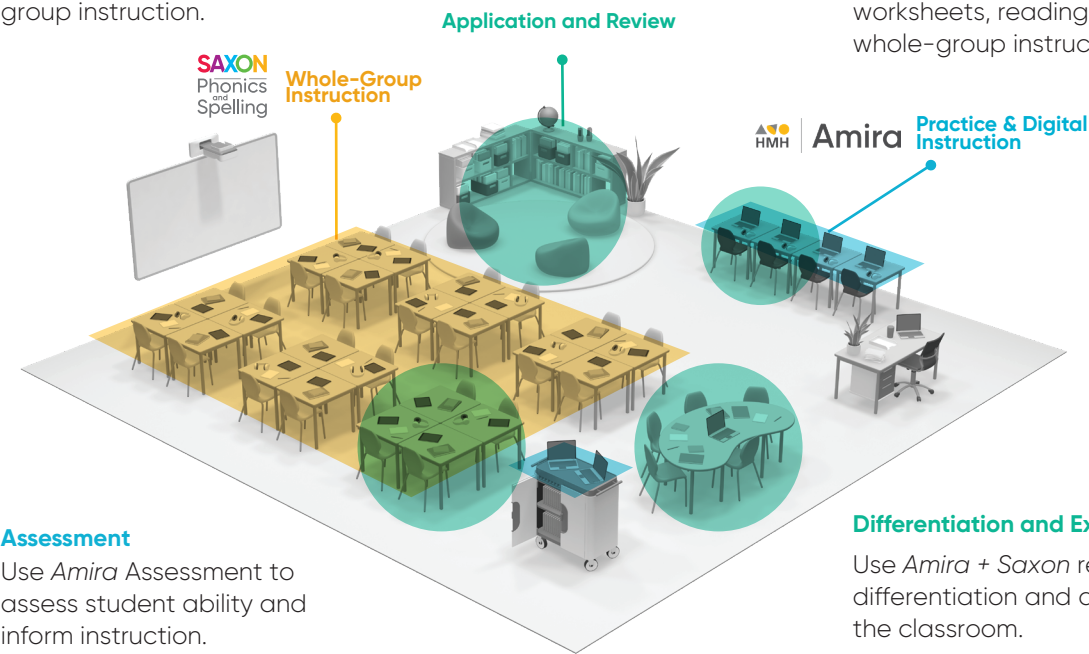
Component Summary

Whole-Group Instruction

Use Saxon for your whole-group instruction.

Application and Review

Use Saxon activities like board work, worksheets, readings, and Amira to support whole-group instruction.



Assessment

Use Amira Assessment to assess student ability and inform instruction.

Differentiation and Extended Day

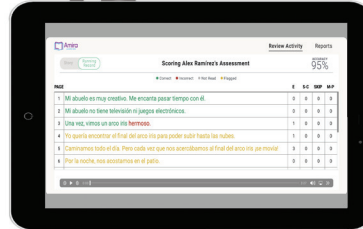
Use Amira + Saxon resources to supplement differentiation and activities for outside of the classroom.

Component Overview

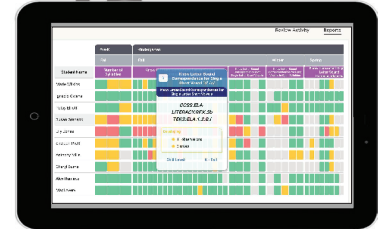
Teachers' Manuals



Online Reading Assessment



Teacher Reports



Decodable Readers



Fluency Readers



Online Reading Tutoring



Student Dictionaries



For Grades 1 & 2

Review Decks



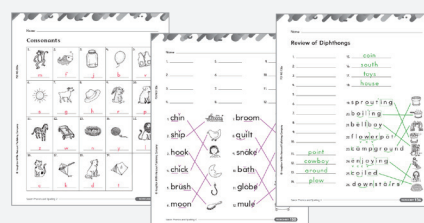
Posters



Wall Cards



Student Worksheets



Kid Cards



Letter Titles



Alphabet Handwriting Strips



Foundational Skills Overview

Explicit and systematic phonics instruction

Amira + Saxon Phonics and Spelling foundational skills materials show vertical alignment and the systematic building of skills from one grade to the next. Each grade includes a grade-level scope and sequence that identifies the skills taught in that grade's instruction and the order in which the skills are taught.

Lesson Warm-Up
Each day's lesson begins with activities that review previously taught material and prepare students for new learning.

Options For Differentiation
Small-group activities support students at three different skill levels.

New Concepts (Phonics/Print Awareness)
New skills taught each week.

Sight Words
New Increment sections introduce sight words, decodable text reinforces understanding, and daily Sight Word Review builds automaticity in reading.

Grade 1 Scope and Sequence

LESSON	LESSON WARM UP	DIFFERENTIATION	NEW INCREMENT	APPLICATION AND CONTINUAL REVIEW				
LESSON TITLE	ALPHABET ACTIVITY	PHONEMIC/PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS	DAILY LETTER, SPELLING, AND SOUND REVIEW	OPTIONS FOR DIFFERENTIATION	NEW CONCEPTS (PHONICS/PRINT AWARENESS)	SIGHT WORDS	REVIEW	READERS
13 Blends	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Name each letter in alphabetical order	Review Concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Isolate and produce medial sounds	Daily Letter and Sound Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">Practice letter recognitionPractice affixesPractice letter soundsPractice sight words Spelling Sound Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">Spell letter soundsSpell words	Support: identify which word in a pair begins with a consonant blend Reinforce: build consonant blends and add rimes to make words Extend: hear words and quickly read and identify the matching printed word	<ul style="list-style-type: none">blendsthe blends <i>pl, sl, sn, sp, spl, and st</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">identify vowels and consonantsblend soundsread <i>VC</i> and <i>VVC</i> words	
14 The Letter <i>D</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use kinesthetic responsePractice the alphabet	New Concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify initial blendsIdentify onsets of words	Daily Letter and Sound Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">Practice letter recognitionPractice affixesPractice letter soundsPractice sight words Spelling Sound Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">Spell letter soundsSpell words	Support: learn to remember which direction lowercase <i>d</i> faces Reinforce: identify and read words with the letter <i>d</i> in context Extend: identify letters by their sounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">reading and spelling consonant <i>d</i>quotation marksspeaker tags	said	<ul style="list-style-type: none">identify vowels and consonantsblend soundsreview sentencesidentify capital and lowercase lettersread <i>VC</i> and <i>VVC</i> words	Decodable Reader 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Plan and Toss
15 Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use kinesthetic responsePractice the AlphabetIdentify Vowels	Review Concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify initial blendsIdentify onsets of words	Daily Letter and Sound Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">Practice letter recognitionPractice letter soundsSpelling Sound ReviewSpell letter sounds	Targeted remediation activities from the Resources for Differentiation booklet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">apostrophe			Fluency Reader 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Level A: Spin, SpinLevel B: Dolls SpinLevel C: A Top and an Ant
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review vowelsSound alphabet	New Concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Segment words	Daily Letter and Sound Review	Support: distinguish between words that	<ul style="list-style-type: none">reading and spelling consonant <i>f</i>the voiced <i>f</i>	of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">read and spell words with the blends <i>ch, sh, and ur</i>	

Alphabet Activity
Activities include reciting the alphabet, alphabetizing, and playing games.

Phonemic/Phonological Awareness
Students build skills such as syllables, rimes, and phonemes as well as focus on individual word sounds.

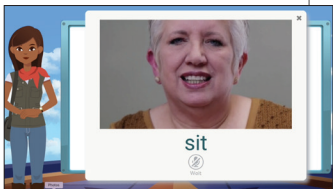
Daily Letter, Spelling, and Sound Review
Deck Cards build and review letter-sound correspondence, sound-spelling, and sight words.

Review
Worksheets allow students to apply what they have learned.

Readers
Fluency and Decodable Readers provide additional reading opportunities.

Articulation Support

Amira's online reading tutoring provides a Lip Sync Micro-Intervention that shows students a human reading a word as they practice reading with *Amira*. Spelling Cards are provided in the Review Decks for *Amira + Saxon Phonics and Spelling*. Each Spelling Card includes an Articulation Support photo of a child modeling the mouth position.



Amira Overview

Guide instructional decisions in the classroom

Benchmark Testing

Benchmark testing in *Amira* provides data around foundational skills mastery. The digital assessment will take between 5 and 9 minutes per student. Benchmark test probes for skill mastery, using a range of item types, providing data on phonological & phonemic awareness, sight recognition, vocabulary, and comprehension. Assess students for BOY, MOY, and EOY, including ongoing progress monitoring!

Guidance on the Use of Data

The **Skills Status Report** allows teachers to visually see the status of their entire class in every reading skill. Skills are mapped across the report and each student has a color-coded box for each skill depending on their mastery level. Instructional recommendations in *Saxon Phonics and Spelling* are provided to instruct on skills gaps.

Decoding:

Measures a student's ability to combine letter sounds for unfamiliar words.

Phonological Awareness:

Measures a student's ability to pronounce phonemes within words accurately.

Sight Recognition:

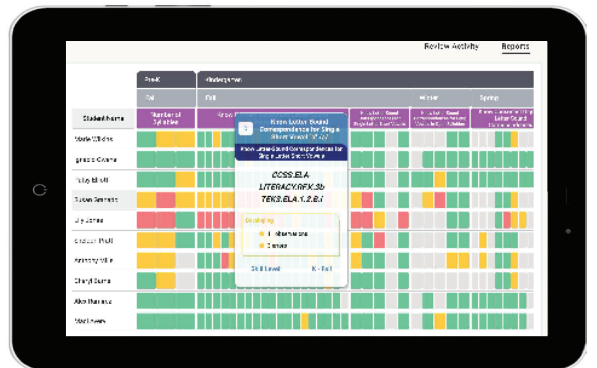
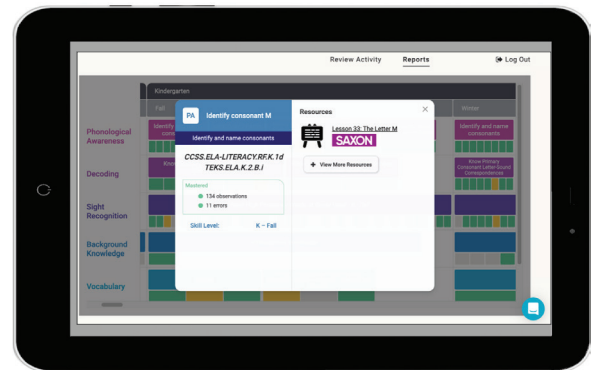
Measures sight words a student has mastered.

Vocabulary:

Measures a student's expressive vocabulary through observations.

Background Knowledge:

Measures a student's understanding of the passages they are reading.



Reading Practice with *Amira*

After students take the reading fluency assessment, they are placed into powerful 1:1 reading tutoring. Students read with *Amira* and are supported with micro-interventions rooted in the science of reading.

Amira's 1:1 tutoring accelerates skilled reading through proven interventions like reading along, lip-syncing, and rhyming words. *Amira* early skills practice supports the *Saxon* reader with foundational reading support, providing opportunities for differentiation and maximizing the time students are engaged with personalized reading practice.

Recommended for 30+ minutes a week!



Explicit Phonics Instruction | ORF Assessment | 1:1 Tutoring



Contact your Account Executive to learn more about how
Amira + Saxon Phonics and Spelling can build important
foundational reading skills and accelerate learning.

hmhco.com/hmh-support

Amira Learning® is a registered trademark of Amira Learning, Inc. Saxon®, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt®, and HMH® are registered trademarks of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. © Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved. 12/22 WF1683485 F-1852532



Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

hmhco.com