

Morpheme Magic and Morphemes for Little Ones Logic Model

ESSA Evidence Level IV

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Executive Summary

95 Percent Group partnered with Jameson D. Lopez (JDL), an independent research firm, to create a logic model for Morpheme Magic and Morphemes for Little Ones. This evidence-based core and intervention program offers structured, explicit lessons on morphemes, along with interactive teaching activities designed to build morphological awareness among both educators and students. JDL's logic model aligns with Level IV (Demonstrates a Rationale) requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).¹

Ongoing Research

95 Percent Group is currently planning an efficacy study on Morpheme Magic and Morphemes for Little Ones to meet ESSA Level III, as informed by this logic model.

Conclusions

This logic model provides results to satisfy ESSA evidence requirements for Level IV (Demonstrates a Rationale).

¹ Guidance for Level IV states that an intervention should include a “well-specified logic model that is informed by research or an evaluation that suggests how the intervention is likely to improve relevant outcomes; and an effort to study the effects of the intervention, ideally producing promising evidence or higher, that will happen as part of the intervention or is underway elsewhere...” (U.S. Department of Education, 2016, p.9).

Introduction

95 Percent Group is an education company whose mission is to build on science to empower teachers—supplying the knowledge, resources and support they need—to develop strong readers. Using an approach that is based in structured literacy, the company’s One95™ Literacy Ecosystem™ integrates professional learning and evidence-based literacy products into one cohesive system that supports consistent instructional routines across tiers and is proven and trusted to help students close skill gaps and read fluently. 95 Percent Group is also committed to advancing research, best practices, and thought leadership on the science of reading more broadly.

Morpheme Magic

Morpheme Magic is an evidence-based program for core and intervention instruction, offering systematic and explicit morphology lessons, teaching activities, and more to create morphological awareness for teachers and students. Fifty-three lessons, covering suffixes, prefixes, roots, and Greek combining forms, share a systematic routine that draws from research on how we develop deep word knowledge. The program is designed to enhance advanced word study while building interest and curiosity about words.

Morphemes for Little Ones

Morphemes for Little Ones is an early literacy program designed to help young learners understand the concept of morphemes (e.g., prefixes, roots, suffixes). Part of the Morpheme Magic suite, Morphemes for Little Ones focuses on building foundational word knowledge by introducing morphemes in a way that is accessible and engaging for young children.

Existing Research

Research on explicit morpheme instruction demonstrates its significant benefits in improving students' vocabulary, reading comprehension, and spelling (Bowers & Kirby, 2010). By teaching students to break down words into morphemes—such as roots, prefixes, and suffixes—educators equip them with the tools to decipher unfamiliar words and expand their vocabulary (Nunes & Bryant, 2006). This skill becomes particularly valuable when students encounter complex, academic vocabulary. Morpheme instruction also enhances reading comprehension, as students gain a deeper understanding of word meanings and are better able to use context clues to interpret texts (Carlisle, 2010). In terms of spelling, students with strong morpheme awareness are more accurate, especially with multi-syllabic or morphologically complex words. Additionally, explicit morpheme instruction has been found to support struggling readers and students with dyslexia by providing them with strategies to decode difficult words (Goodwin & Ahn, 2013). When implemented consistently across grade levels, morpheme instruction yields long-term literacy benefits, helping students tackle increasingly complex texts as they advance in their education.

Logic Model

A logic model is a visual representation of a program that captures participants' understanding of its components and the relationships among them (W.K. Kellogg Foundation, 2004). It illustrates the connections between the resources needed to run the program, the planned activities, and the desired outcomes. In this context, a "program" refers to the intervention, project, or collection of activities or services depicted in the model. Logic models are widely used to outline a program or its components, aiding in planning, implementation, and evaluation.

By using a logic model, program efforts are more likely to succeed because it communicates the program's purpose and expected results, details the actions needed to achieve those results, and serves as a reference for all participants (University of Wisconsin-Extension, 2003). Logic models also improve staff expertise in program planning, implementation, and evaluation. Additionally, logic models help identify potential challenges early so staff can address them proactively. A logic model typically has five core components: inputs, participants, activities, outputs, and outcomes (McCawley, 2001; see Table 1).

Table 1. Logic Model Components

Component	Description	Examples
Inputs	Resources invested in a program or intervention to ensure its successful implementation. Inputs may come from various sources and are essential for the program to function effectively. They represent what is required to support and drive the activities of the program.	Inputs may include financial resources, personnel, and in-kind contributions, such as funding, staff, materials, technology, or time.
Participants	The people who have access to the program, the key users.	Participants may include students, teachers, or administrators.
Activities	The core actions or processes undertaken by a program to achieve its objectives and produce desired outcomes. Activities represent how the program uses the inputs—such as resources and materials—to create or contribute to change.	Activities can include interventions, programming, or specific actions, such as training sessions, workshops, or lesson delivery, aimed at addressing conditions or fostering desired changes.
Outputs	The direct, tangible, and measurable results produced by the program's activities. Outputs represent what is immediately achieved through the implementation of activities and can serve as early indicators of progress.	Outputs may include the number of teachers trained, the materials distributed, or the workshops conducted.
Outcomes	Outcomes in a logic model are the desired results or specific changes and benefits that result from a program. They represent the expected benefits, changes, or achievements that the program aims to accomplish.	Outcomes are often expressed in terms of short-term, medium-term, and long-term.

Morpheme Magic Logic Model

Inputs	Participants	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes		
				Short	Medium	Long
Human Resources - Trained educators and facilitators - Instructional designers - Support staff Materials and Resources - Morpheme Magic and Morphemes for Little Ones curriculum and lesson plans - Educational tools (e.g., workbooks, flashcards, language stimulation cards, wall cards, assessments) - Digital resources (e.g., online educator training modules) Funding and Support - Budget for program implementation - Professional development funds for educators Learning Environment - Classrooms or virtual learning spaces (e.g., wall cards, digital posters)	Students in grades K-3 (Morphemes for Little Ones) Students in grades 4-12 (Morpheme Magic) Teachers Administrators	Curriculum Delivery - Implementing lesson plans that teach morphemes (prefixes, suffixes, root words) - Conducting interactive and engaging activities that reinforce morpheme understanding Instructional Methods - Using direct instruction, guided practice, and independent practice - Incorporating games and activities to make learning fun Assessment and Feedback - Regular assessments to measure students' understanding of morphemes - Providing feedback to students to support their learning Professional Development - Training for educators on effective implementation of Morpheme Magic and Morphemes for Little Ones - Ongoing support and resources for teachers	Educational Materials - Completed lesson plans and instructional materials - Student workbooks and practice exercises Student Work - Completed assignments and assessments - Interactive and engaging student participation Teacher Implementation - Documented use of Morpheme Magic or Morphemes for Little Ones in classrooms - Educators' feedback and observations on the program's effectiveness	Improved student recognition and understanding of morphemes Enhanced vocabulary and spelling skills among students Students gain confidence in literacy activities Students have increased interest and motivation in their learning Increased student engagement and participation in learning activities	Students overall academic performance in reading and language arts improves Better decoding and spelling of complex words Increased reading comprehension and writing ability Development of stronger foundational literacy skills	Enhanced literacy skills leading to academic success Improved ability to tackle diverse and complex texts Greater confidence and independence in using and understanding complex words Better preparation for advanced literacy skills

Assumptions

A better understanding of morphemes will enhance students' vocabulary and understanding of language structure, leading to increased academic success.

External Factors

Accessibility may differ across demographic contexts such as locations, where access or implementation of programing may be limited.

References

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