

**The Efficacy of Computer Assisted Instruction for
Advancing Literacy Skills in Kindergarten Children***

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Researchers examined the benefits of computer-assisted instruction (CAI) as a supplement to a phonics-based reading curriculum for kindergartners in an urban public school system. The CAI program (*Lexia Early Reading*) provides systematic exercises in phonological awareness and letter-sound correspondences. Comparisons were made between students in classes receiving a sufficient amount of CAI support and students in matched control classes taught by the same teacher but without CAI. The treatment and control groups did not differ on pretest measures of pre-literacy skills. The researchers found significant differences between groups on post-test measures using the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test Level PR. Among students identified as low-performing at pre-test, those using CAI had post-test scores significantly greater than the control students in measures of phonological awareness skills.

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