

Foundational Skills + *Geodes* + *Wit & Wisdom* = Proficient Readers, Writers, Speakers, and Listeners



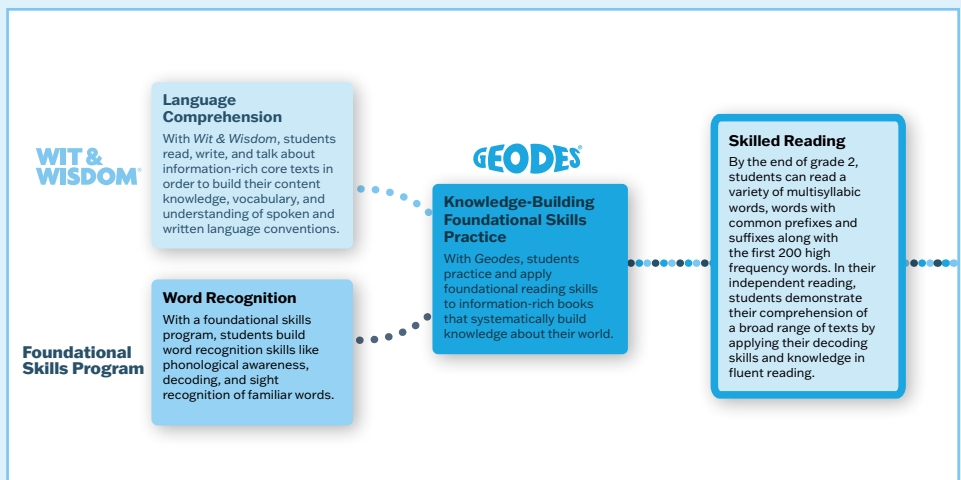
As one of the most complex things that we do on a regular basis, skilled reading requires fluent and coordinated execution of word recognition and language comprehension. Research tells us that students develop these abilities most effectively in the context of coherent, rigorous, and content-rich texts. Without all of these components, skilled reading is likely to break down.

That is why more and more schools are pairing a foundational reading skills program with *Wit & Wisdom*® and *Geodes*® to provide the high-quality instructional materials that teachers demand, that children deserve, and that are supported by research on the Science of Reading.

To align with Science of Reading research, classroom instruction needs to explicitly teach students how to decode words and make meaning of them. But emerging readers also need enriching reading experiences that provide ample practice in weaving these skills together in a coherent way—this is a key component of evidence-based reading instruction that is often overlooked, and that *Geodes* uniquely provide.

THREE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF RESEARCH-BASED LITERACY INSTRUCTION

Wit & Wisdom, *Geodes*, and foundational skills programs support evidence-based instruction, but investing in one without the others shortchanges students in their literacy development. Implementing all three of these elements provides a seamless and holistic learning experience for students in kindergarten through grade 3 by bringing the Science of Reading to life in every classroom.



State-of-the-Art Foundational Skills Development

Numerous studies show us that systematic and explicit foundational skills instruction is crucial for students as they are learning to read and write. The hallmark of a research-based foundational skills program is that instruction is built around a clearly defined scope and sequence that minimizes confusion and gradually builds the complexity of students' literacy knowledge and skills.

A foundational skills program should—at minimum—explicitly build core reading skills. These include phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics and word recognition, print awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Materials should present concepts and skills in a cumulative manner within and across grade levels and provide multiple opportunities for students to practice and apply their growing literacy skills to build mastery.

Wit & Wisdom and *Geodes* are the perfect companions to foundational skills programs like Foundations®, Really Great Reading, UFLI Foundations, 95 Phonics Core Program, SIPPS, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, and more.



Geodes: Knowledge-Building Foundational Skills Practice

Geodes are books for emerging and developing readers that systematically weave foundational skills practice together with fascinating content so students build fluency while they experience the delight of acquiring new knowledge.

Geodes provide access for all students: Additional scaffolding and explicit vocabulary instruction enable students to decode and comprehend higher-quality text than with typical decodable text. Geodes are also information-rich: The collection provides students with authentic and interesting reading experiences, with 192 unique titles organized into connected text sets and modules on science, history, and the arts that are also aligned with *Wit & Wisdom* module topics.

Spanning Levels K–3, Geodes begin with Wordless Picture Books that give students an opportunity to tell a story based on a sequence of narrative illustrations. Next, Sound Search Books help students boost their letter-sound recognition skills by finding pictures associated with the sounds of a given letter. Students then begin to apply their phonetic knowledge as they tap out words, and Duet Books allow for just the right amount of adult assistance as students read on their own for the first time. As students become independent readers, Geodes books gradually increase average sentence length to help them develop reading stamina and ultimately progress to reading chapter books so they continue to experience success and enjoy reading.



Wit & Wisdom: Core, Content-Rich ELA Curriculum

Wit & Wisdom is a comprehensive, standards-based English language arts curriculum. Developed by and for teachers, the *Wit & Wisdom* approach helps students build reading, writing, speaking, listening, vocabulary, and language skills in the context of complex and information-rich texts.

Everything that happens in *Wit & Wisdom* classrooms starts with exceptional texts, because content is the core of ELA instruction. Instead of using basal readers, each *Wit & Wisdom* module centers on a carefully curated mix of literary, informational, and fine-art texts that build student knowledge around the module's topic of focus. Essential topics strategically reoccur throughout the curriculum, empowering students to deepen their understanding of science, history, geography, and more as they master literacy skills.

With *Wit & Wisdom*, students engage in productive struggle and all learners are supported in tackling the rigor of grade-level content with confidence and joy.

This unique combination of resources helps K–3 students become proficient and confident readers, writers, speakers, and listeners—all while acquiring important knowledge of history, science, the arts, and other subjects that will help them succeed in school and in life.



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