

# What's New In Release 8.5

## Of the A+nyWhere Learning System®

### New Emergent Reading Program

#### Introducing the *Learning Letter Sounds* Title

Release 8.5 includes the debut of the *Learning Letter Sounds*™ (LLS) program for the *A+nyWhere Learning System*. LLS lessons are designed to teach learners the names and sounds of the letters of the alphabet and do much more to prepare them for reading instruction at a higher level.

Based on principles identified by the National Reading Panel and scientifically-based research, LLS lessons focus on the names and sounds of letters, phonemic awareness, and blending. In addition, the total experience exposes learners to a wide range of concepts that enhance language development.

The program is designed expressly for children who do not yet read, and utilizes a greatly simplified interface. There is no study, practice, test, or essay. The entire program flows based on the learner performance. Seldom do non-readers need any assistance to use *Learning Letter Sounds* lessons.

To see how a *Learning Letter Sounds* assignment list is assigned to a student:

1. Log on as a teacher or administrator with a class, then go to the *Assignment Management Window*.
2. In the left pane, under your class name, locate the name of the student to receive the new LLS assignment list.
  - It is recommended that you use a test user account and not one used by a real student. In the next two sections you'll have the option log on as a student and review the first LLS lesson, then you'll be able to test the new *Emergent Reader* interface with an existing ALS Lesson.
  - Please note that LLS lessons cannot be added to existing assignment lists. Due to the lesson and page sequencing and integrated review tests, they are always assigned to their own list.
  - **Right click** on the student's name, then select **Create New LLS List** from the popup menu.
3. When *New Assignment List Settings for LLS* opens, you may edit the name of the list if you wish.
  - You may notice that some of the normal ALS Lesson options are disabled (see the figure at right). This is because the lesson and page sequencing is important for the success of LLS students.
  - Later, if you decide to change the list settings, you'll notice that the same options are ghosted and unavailable.
4. Click **OK**, then **OK** again to confirm.
5. Open the new assignment list and notice that it has already been populated with all of the LLS lessons.
  - The LLS learning experience is highly dependent on the precise sequencing of both the lessons and pages within the lessons. Both review tests and later lessons assume that the student has experienced specific prior lessons. So unlike other A+LS assignment lists, all you have to do is create the LLS list and your students are ready to start learning their letters and letter sounds.

New Assignment List Settings for LLS

Assignment List Settings

List Name: Learning Letter Sounds \*

Force assignment order

Allow access to list after completed

In order to access this list, the student must first complete the following assignment list:

[Dropdown] Clear

Assignments to show to student:

[Dropdown: launch current assignment]

\* denotes required information

OK Cancel Help

Aspire.  
Act.  
Achieve.

6. Highlight one of the *LLS* lessons (not a review test) and note that there is no *Edit Settings* button in the right pane.
  - The mechanics of *LLS* lessons are different from other ALS Lessons, so the typical *A+LS* assignment options are unavailable.

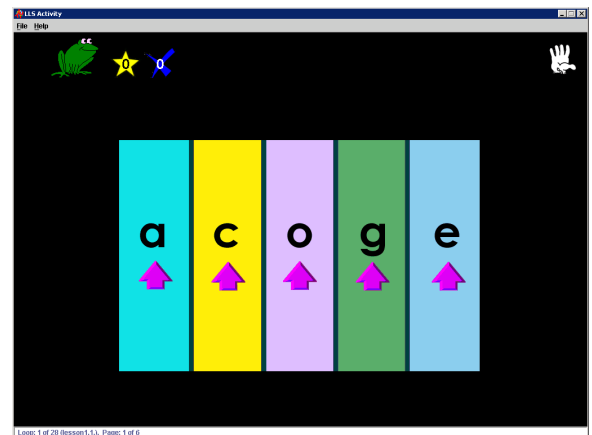
That's all there is to it. Create the list and *Learning Letter Sounds* is delivered to your student.

## Reviewing a Learning Letter Sounds Lesson

To view a *Learning Letter Sounds* lesson:

1. Log in as the student who received the *LLS* assignments in the previous section.
2. If the student has multiple classes, you'll see them listed, so click on the class with the *LLS* assignment list, then click the **Next** button.
3. If the student has multiple assignment lists, you will see them listed, click on the *Learning Letter Sounds* list.

- The first available *LLS* lesson automatically opens (figure at right). Since the focus is on prereaders, normal activity menus are not used. The student is taken seamlessly to the pretest, and if they fail the pretest, to the Practice (core content) and Mastery test.



- Also note the buttons across the top of the screen:

Frog - Acts as help, repeating the audio instructions  
 Gold star - Number of correct answers so far  
 Blue X - Number of incorrect answers so far  
 White "stop" hand - Exit the lesson

4. When you have finished working with the *LLS* lesson click on the "stop" hand in the upper right corner.

## New A+LS User Interface

### The Emergent Reader Interface

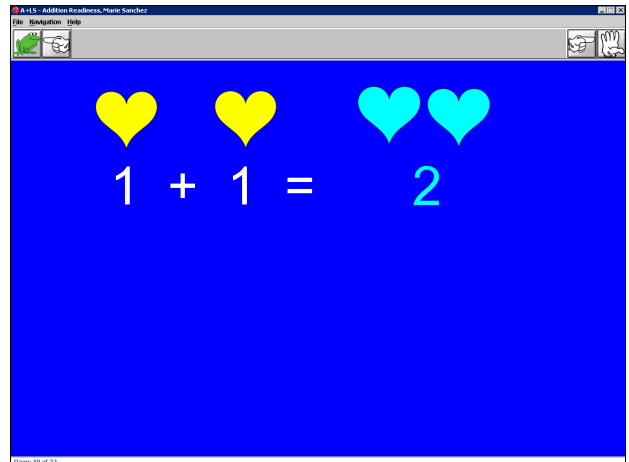
A new *Emergent Reader* user interface was designed to deliver all of the first grade level *A+LS* titles. If a student only has one assignment list (for example, just a *Mathematics I* or *LLS* list) and just one class, after log on the student is taken directly to the first available lesson. The student will only see intervening menus if they need to choose between multiple classes or assignment lists. This keeps things as simple as possible for your prereaders.

The new interface can be used to deliver any ALS Lesson or other component supported by the other *A+LS* user interfaces. You can assign the *Emergent Reader* user interface when adding new students or editing existing ones. The *Add User* and *Edit User* dialog boxes' Interface drop box now includes *Emergent Reader*; along with the other *A+LS* user interfaces (Adult, Intermediate, Primary, etc.).

To convert an existing user to use the new *Emergent Reader* interface and see what it looks like:

1. Log on as a teacher or administrator with at least one class and the right to edit user information, then go to the *Assignment Management Window*.
  - As before, we recommend you select a student account used for testing or practice and not one used by a real student.
2. **Right click** on a student with existing ALS Lesson assignments, then select **Edit User**.
3. After the *Edit User* dialog box opens, click on the **Interface** drop box.
4. Select **Emergent Reader** from the list of interfaces.
5. Click **OK** and again to confirm.

6. Log in as the student and at the initial screen click on the hand in the lower right corner (the *Next* button).
7. If the student has multiple classes, you'll see them listed, so click on the class with a typical ALS Lesson assignment list, then click the **Next** button.
8. If the student has multiple assignment lists, you will see them listed, select one with ALS Lessons.
9. Select **Study**.
  - Note the buttons across the top of the screen:
    - Frog - Acts as help, repeating the audio instructions
    - Left pointing hand - Back or previous page
    - Right pointing hand - Next page button
    - White "stop" hand - Exit the lesson
10. When you have finished working with the lesson click on the "stop" hand in the upper right corner.
11. If the student had multiple classes or lists, use the hand in the lower left to make your way back to the log-on screen or click on the red Exit door on the right to quit.



## More New Titles

### New English Literature Titles for High Schools

The study of literature is a major component of any high school English course. Our new English Literature IX-XII titles provide a guided study of a broad range of classic works of literature. Each lesson provides an introduction to the chapters that will be read and provides interactive study helps similar to a reference library in a classroom.

These lessons provide a broad exposure to literature, enabling the student to acquire the necessary skills and comprehension to understand and appreciate literature for a lifetime. Ultimately the approach provides a structured study of the human condition through the exploration of the universal themes of literature and their application to life today.

To accomplish this goal, the focus in the study guides and later in the questions is on literary terms, devices, and forms. These include questions in the lessons that are designed at three levels. The first level is concrete questions to be certain that the students have read and retained the basic

content. The middle level of questions probe higher levels of understanding. Do they understand what they have read, see the implications in the book, and apply the skills to comprehend literature, literary terms, and devices? At the highest level of learning, students use essays to explore their own interpretations of the books and synthesize their learning into new ideas.

*English IX - Literature* includes the full text and study for:

- A Tale of Two Cities
- Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde
- Romeo & Juliet
- The Locket
- The Masque of the Red Death
- The Odyssey

*English X - Literature* includes the full text and study for:

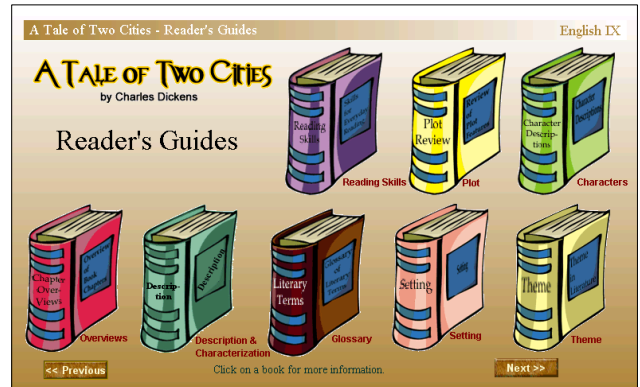
- Great Expectations
- Huckleberry Finn
- Julius Caesar
- The Jungle

*English XI - Literature* includes the full text and study for:

- House of Seven Gables
- Last of the Mohicans
- Moby Dick
- Red Badge of Courage

*English XII - Literature* includes the full text and study for:

- Adventures of the Speckled Band
- Gulliver's Travels: Lilliput
- Jane Eyre
- Macbeth
- Pride and Prejudice
- Wuthering Heights



## **New and Updated Standards**

Release 8.5 also includes the following new standard sets (since Release 8):

- Alabama Course of Study - Social Studies
- Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks by Grade (2004) - Language Arts
- California Framework for Public Schools
- Georgia Performance Standards (July 2004) - Social Science
- Indiana Academic Standards
- Mississippi Curriculum Framework
- Nevada Academic Standards for Public Schools
- New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards - 2002 - Language Arts & Social Studies
- North Carolina Standard Course of Study - Language Arts
- South Carolina Curriculum Standards - Math
- South Dakota Content Standards - Science & Social Studies
- Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills
- Washington Grade Level Expectations - Science

Release 8.5 includes the following updated standard sets (since Release 8):

- Alaska Grade Level Expectations
- Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks by Grade (2004)
- Colorado Suggested Grade Level Expectations
- Connecticut K-12 Curriculum Content (2004 draft)
- Florida Grade Level Expectations
- Hawaii Content and Performance Indicators (2004)
- Kentucky Vertically Aligned Core Content
- Maine Grade Level Expectations
- Missouri Grade Level Expectations
- Montana Comprehensive Assessment System Expectations
- Oregon Grade Level Standards
- Pennsylvania Assessment Anchors
- Vermont Grade Level Expectations

## **How to Get 8.5?**

Because Release 8.5 contains only new content, new and updated standards, and the functionality to support them, it will be available only via CDs. Upgrades to Release 8.5 from prior versions of *A+LS* software would be required only to add the new content or standards, and can be arranged through your authorized *A+LS* Distributor.

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