

The Role of the Multipurpose Multisyllable Books in the Stevenson Program and When to Use Them

The Multipurpose Multisyllable (MM) books are intended to be used with the Stevenson Language Skills Program and not as a supplement to other phonics materials. The Multipurpose Multisyllable (MM) books can be used as an enhancement to the Basic Blue Level, applied at different junctures in that level, depending on your students. The MM books can also be used as a bridge to the Intermediate Level and/or the *Frostings Doilies and More* books.

The point of the Multipurpose Multisyllable books is to expand the reading capabilities of students in the program by exposing them to more multisyllable words. In particular, these books will help some struggling readers in the Basic Blue Level progress more rapidly, and approach grade level reading sooner. However, some struggling readers can become overwhelmed easily, so you need to evaluate when it is most appropriate to introduce the more complex material. There are different ways that these books can be integrated into the Stevenson Program. Once you get to know these materials, it will be easy for you to envision many ways to apply them. However, the first time you use the MM books, particularly if you are new to the Stevenson Program, we suggest you follow the guidelines here.

First, consider your students and make sure you know what Stevenson materials they have already been taught. Students must have already completed certain parts of the program for the content of Multipurpose Multisyllable (MM) books to make sense. If your students are (or were) struggling readers, they need to develop skills systematically. They cannot be expected to master longer, more complex words without a solid foundation reading shorter, simpler words. Students in the Stevenson Program either start at the Beginning Green Level and cover that material thoroughly, or they start with the Overlapping Strategy books that allow them to move faster and advance to the Basic Blue Level sooner. (For free detailed information on these options, call 800-343-1211 or e-mail info@stevensonlearning.com.) Whether or when to apply the Multipurpose Multisyllable books will depend on what your students have already covered and what it took for them to reach this point:

- If your students started Stevenson with the Beginning Green Level and they completed that Level, including the Lonely Vowels books, in approximately one school year (as many Stevenson students do), then they can begin to use the MM books at certain points during the second level of the program, the Basic Blue Level. Even if you do not use the MM books during the Basic Blue Level, you should apply them before you start the Intermediate Level or *Frostings, Doilies and More*.
- If your students were a little older or more advanced, and they used the Overlapping Strategy, then they also can begin to use the Multipurpose Multisyllable books at certain points during the Basic Blue Level; and, in any case, you should apply the MM books before you start the Intermediate Level or *Frostings, Doilies and More*.
- If, however, your students started Stevenson with the Beginning Green Level, and they required a full school year **or more** to complete those materials without being able to include the Lonely Vowels, then they should continue to move slowly and carefully. They should **not** use the Multipurpose Multisyllable books until they complete the full Basic Blue Level, which will take another full school year or more.

If you are going to use the Multipurpose Multisyllable books during the Basic Blue Level, then we suggest the following options:

- An early but more challenging application - You can start to use the Multipurpose Multisyllable books after Lesson 13 of the Basic Blue Core Manual or after Lesson 21 of the Overlapping Strategy Manual. In this case, you can use the MM books frequently while you are also teaching the Basic Blue Level material, but you will need to adjust some of the reading material, and you will rarely teach more than one lesson at a time from the MM books.
- A later but more comfortable application - You can start to use the Multi-purpose Multisyllable books after Lesson 36 of the Basic Blue Core Manual. At that point you will have to make few, if any, adjustments to the practice reading sections, and you will be able to teach several lessons from the MM books and then several from the Basic Blue Core Manual.

In any case, if you use the Multipurpose Multisyllable books during (rather than after) the Basic Blue Level, you will be alternating between the two sets of materials. This MM Teacher's Manual explains when to apply the MM books and indicates which Basic Blue Lessons to coordinate with. You will notice that there are several student pages for each lesson, but not all pages can be used for all students. For example, if you are applying the MM books at the earliest possible point in the Basic Blue Level (Lesson 13), you will find that in MM Lesson One your students can only use two of the five pages in the student book; whereas students who began the MM books later (after Lesson 36) can use all of the pages. If you do not apply the MM books until after completing the Basic Blue Level, your students can use all (or any) of the student pages.

We encourage you to look through Lesson One and the facsimile pages at the end of the lesson. The way the Multipurpose Multisyllable books can best be applied to your teaching situation will become obvious. As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us at 800-343-1211 (M-F, 9-5, Eastern Time) or e-mail us at info@stevensonlearning.com.