Bridging the Literacy Gap

Questions and answers

Can I view the work I want to assign to my students before I give it to them? I am new to StepsWeb.

Absolutely you can. When you log into StepsWeb as an educator, you'll see a purple button marked 'Student Simulator'. When you click this, it will enable you to access all lists and activities in the Course. You just select Level, Unit and then Activity and you can do the activity yourself as if you're a student.

If you click the 'Add Assigned Work' button, you'll be able to access all the individual wordlists, plus the Supporting Activities and Games sections in the same way.

The ['Student Simulator'](#) is great for exploring the programme, but it is also handy for explicit teaching. It can be very effective to do an activity together with a group or even whole class, with you talking through how to tackle it. Then students go back to their individual devices and do the activity independently.

Please could you talk a little about the workbooks

There are workbooks for the Foundation Levels (A – D) and up to Level 12 of the main Course. We would recommend that all Foundation Level learners are on the workbooks as well as the online activities. This is for developmental reasons. For example, handwriting is particularly important at that stage.

In addition, struggling learners on the main Course should also be on the workbooks.

You can see information about the workbooks [here](#). If you scroll down this page, you'll be able to see samples for every workbook. There's a button under each workbook example, which enables you to download and print the first unit of each workbook. This means you can see them in action before purchasing.

How can this be adjusted for deaf learners?

We've got an info sheet on the sound requirements for activities within StepsWeb. There is also a different mode which students can work in. This doesn't 'lock' them into a forced progression, but gives them flexibility to miss out certain activities. We don't recommend this mode for other students, but it is often appropriate for learners with specific needs, like hearing impairment.

Do the students work independently, or would the teacher need to be present watching and supporting?

Good question! That depends. Obviously your high-need students will need explicit teaching and those students will be using the workbooks in conjunction with online activities, probably in a withdrawal setting.

However, most of your students in an intermediate or high school will be able to work pretty independently. You can easily see exactly what they've been doing (or not doing!) and you'll be able to step in where necessary. You don't need to supervise directly, though.

You can use the Student Monitoring feature to watch what your student's are doing in real time, or view comprehensive activity logs.

Is the digital stuff gamified?

Well, yes and no! If you mean are they spending time on game activities which are purely for pleasure, the answer is no. Every activity (including the games) has an educational purpose and a research backing. However, there are certainly some games incorporated into StepsWeb for variety and enjoyment.