



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***READY! for Kindergarten*[™] NAMED “READERS’ CHOICE TOP 100 PRODUCTS”
BY *DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION* MAGAZINE**

K-12 leaders endorse innovative products that enhance learning
in another record-breaking year for nominations.

Kennewick, WA, December 1, 2013: *READY! for Kindergarten*, a program of the Children’s Reading Foundation, has been selected as one of the best programs in education by K-12 leaders who named it to *District Administration* magazine’s “Readers’ Choice Top 100 Products for 2013.”

The winners, selected by *District Administration*’s editors from a record 1,800-plus nominations, were products that received the highest number of nominations and best descriptions from K12 leaders. The Readers’ Choice Top 100 was announced today online and in the December issue; editors are confident the final Top 100 Products are the best of the best.

In recognizing the most innovative products, the annual *District Administration* Readers’ Choice Top 100 Products award informs superintendents and other senior school district leaders about products their colleagues around the country are using to help their districts excel.

“The fact that we had a record number of readers participating in this recognition program is a testament to the interest that K-12 leaders have in products for improving educational outcomes and operational efficiencies,” says JD Solomon, *District Administration*’s editorial director. “All of the honorees in our Top 100 program should be very proud of their achievement.”

Children’s Reading Foundation President Nancy Kerr said, “We are thrilled to be recognized as a Top 100 program. It’s a tremendous honor administrators using *READY! for Kindergarten* recommended it to their colleagues through this prestigious publication. This award is yet another validation of the powerful impact of our early learning program and its ability to ensure children succeed in school.”

READY! for Kindergarten, which provides trainings, targets and tools to parents of children birth to age five, is offered in over 25 states and 110 school districts across the country. It is a research-based and proven program, helping school districts ensure children in their communities start kindergarten at grade level and read proficiently by 3rd grade, a strong indicator of future success in school and in life.

“The *READY! for Kindergarten* program directly correlates with the skills we hope our incoming kindergarteners have,” said Niki Arnold-Smith, Principal at Eastgate Elementary in Kennewick, WA. “This program is a tremendous support to our parents and students as we work together to ensure our students are prepared for school.”

“Parents and caregivers of children who attend *READY!* classes leave with materials to use at home to build pre-literacy and school readiness skills,” said Virginia Paine, Director of *READY! for Kindergarten*. “Studies show nearly 80% of children whose parents take part in *READY!* meet the kindergarten reading readiness standard regardless of family income or ethnicity, compared to 55% of children whose parents do not attend.”

“Every year 40% of children start kindergarten already one to three years behind. They struggle to catch-up, and most of them never will,” Kerr said. “We hope this award brings further attention to the importance of our program and inspires more districts to prepare their students to start kindergarten at grade level.”

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THE CHILDREN’S READING FOUNDATION® & *READY! FOR KINDERGARTEN*™

Founded in 1996, the Children’s Reading Foundation’s mission is

- encourage and educate families about their important role in raising a reader
- support schools in ensuring students read on grade level by the end of the third grade
- facilitate community involvement in helping young readers be successful.

READY! for Kindergarten is the Children Reading Foundation’s premier school readiness program for families and child care providers. *READY!* fosters early learning that ensures children succeed in school.

The Children’s Reading Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization headquartered in Kennewick, Washington. To learn more, please visit www.readingfoundation.org and www.readyforkindergarten.org

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact:

Virginia Paine
Director, *READY! for Kindergarten*
Vice President, The Children’s Reading Foundation
Office: 509-396-7700; Mobile: 509-420-0705
Virginia@readyforkindergarten.org

Nancy Kerr
President, The Children’s Reading Foundation
Office: 509-735-9405; Mobile: 509-531-6878
nkerr@readingfoundation.org

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

District Administration provides K12 leaders with critical news and information for school district management, through its monthly magazine, website, e-newsletters and the *District Administration* Leadership Institute Superintendent Summits. For more information, visit www.DistrictAdministration.com.

Contact:

JD Solomon, Editorial Director
District Administration magazine
jdsolomon@promediagr.com