

Sora



With technological prowess on their side, Stirling Primary gets every child on the reading radar.

What other ways can we use iPads effectively in our school?"

The Need

In the far-flung East London area of the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa, the mainstream public school, Stirling Primary, enrolls 600 Grades 4 to 7 children each year and every child has an iPad. Initially, the school was looking for digital alternatives to what it had already for its library and the school as a whole. The focus question was where else could the device be used to help kids learn and enjoy reading? The need was further propelled by the arrival of the Covid 19 pandemic in the country. The school had to close access to the physical library as part of the measures to prevent the virus transmission within the school community.

The Solution

The OverDrive **Sora Student Reading App** emerged as the solution to Stirling Primary's need to keep the reading programme going, and help kids find an escape whilst they remained at home.

"What a delight to realise that our children can read e-books or listen to audio books offline too!"

- Mary Lou Berndt.

The Implementation

Stirling Primary EdTech Coach: SPARK STUDIO, Mary Lou Berndt says...

“Our school principal signed off the acquisition of OverDrive without qualms.”

“With effortless orientation, the teaching staff realised the potential and said, ‘Bring it on!’”

“The infrastructure was already in place.”

“Sora Reading App is compatible with our School Management System to allow for a single-sign-on.”

“In less than two weeks or so Stirling Primary was good to go!”

“I have curated a customised collection which comprises my favourite books from childhood.”

Seamless Integration

“Reading habits are continually inculcated in Stirling Primary kids. They have weekly teacher driven ‘Drop Everything and Read’ (READ) sessions. Subject textbooks are digital, so kids are accustomed to reading on their iPads. It is already in their psyche. Parents have given it their approval. All parties embrace technology from the intentional use point of view because they see the benefits thereof.” – Mary Lou.

The beauty of it all is that Stirling Primary has continued to run its favourite annual reading programme called ‘Big Book Bash’ even during the pandemic. The enthusiasm to read e-books or listen to audio books has been maintained!

“Such a talented staff we are all a part of.”

*Rod Harris, Headmaster:
Stirling Primary.*

KEY GAINS

- ✦ Adequate reading material is tiered in accordance with suitable reading levels.
- ✦ The digital library is open 24/7.
- ✦ A significant reading increase in special needs children on the spectrum of reading challenges.
- ✦ SORA equips teachers and parents with tools to work with kids on specific skills like sounding out words (decoding), fluency and reading comprehension.
- ✦ With SORA kids read and listen with Read-Alongs Highlighted text appears while the narrator reads!
- ✦ SORA’s interface is available in 10 international languages!
- ✦ Readers even hear the word spoken aloud to polish their pronunciation.
- ✦ Kids can adjust narration speed and take notes when listening to audiobooks.
- ✦ SORA has a dyslexic font option for increased legibility and readability for kids with dyslexia.
- ✦ SORA’s high contrast setting improves readability and app navigation.
- ✦ Kids read ebooks their way! They customise an e-book’s font, text size and lighting for personal preference!

Contact us to explore how your school can enjoy similar breakthrough results.

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