

Stages-FAQ, March 2010

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Q-What is Stages?

A-is a developmental framework that helps professionals and parents identify learning needs, assess skills and select appropriate software; in addition to recommending extension activities for students with special needs. The Stages program is based on the work of Madalaine Pugliese, MS, Ed.S. Ms. Pugliese is a nationally recognized leader in the fields of assistive and instructional technology and has more than 30 years of experience in public education.

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Q-What research supports Stages?

A-The Stages philosophy, developed over ten years by Madalaine Pugliese, has been influenced by leaders in education, both general education and special education. These leaders include Jean Piaget, Noam Chomsky, Dr. Mary Wilson, and Barb Adams. The reading, writing and language content of Stages activities has been guided by the research of Patricia Cunningham, Marilyn Adams, Pati King-Debaun, Carolyn Musselwhite, Donald Graves and others. The math activities follow the guidelines of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). All activities focus on basic, fundamental skills for developing students.

Complete List of References by Stage: [A Summary of Stages Research](#) (PDF 24K)

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Q-Who can use the Stages framework?

A-Stages is designed for use by both professionals and parents with both child and adult-level learners.

- Educators - identify student skills and modify curriculum access
- School Systems (Administrators) - meet alternative assessment and inclusion goals
- Early Intervention - maintain special needs software library
- Higher Education - prepare learning materials for pre-service professionals
- Speech Pathologists - assess students' skills, stay current with latest software titles
- Agencies/Group Homes - activities for recreation and practice
- Parents - identify practice skills and activities for home

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Q-(For Professionals) How can I best implement Stages in my school or district?

A-Once your school or district has purchased Stages Book and Assessment Software, educators and practitioners should participate in the Stages Professional Development Programs - Workshops designed to help school-based special education team members get the most out of the Stages program. Encourage your school to build a software library by purchasing curriculum software recommended by Stages and classifying existing software by Stage.

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Q-(For Parents) How can I use Stages to enhance my child's skill development at home?

A-Stay informed of your child's Stage by reading the Stages Book. Get to know the software and activities that are appropriate for your child's Stage. If you own a computer that your child can access, purchase curriculum software for skill practice at home. Use Stages as a way to communicate between home and school.

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Q-Do I need to follow the seven Stages in order?

A-The first three Stages are sequential in nature and should be approached this way. Stages Four through Seven are not strictly sequential. For example, a student may be working simultaneously on reading in Stage Five and writing in Stage Seven. Another student may be working on beginning academic readiness skills in Stage Four while mastering appropriate functional skills in Stage Six.

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Q-In what formats is Stages assessment software available?

A-Stages assessment software packages are available in two formats: Stages All-in-One Kit contains all seven Stages on one CD and the User Guide in one 2" binder, convenient for the professional on the go. Stages Standard Kit comes with the software for each Stage on a separate CD and each Stage's User Guide in a separate 1" binder, handy for a team of professionals to share. Each Stage can also be purchased separately, with its own separate CD and User Guide.

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Q-What documentation comes with Stages assessment software?

A-Stages comes with a comprehensive User's Guide, which includes many sections of the Stages book. It also includes observation forms, activity checklists, and a software feature comparison chart for each Stage.

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Q-Can I generate a report from the assessment?

A-Yes, Stages automatically gathers data about the student's session. You can print the on-screen report, or save it as a text file. Use Stages Report Wizard to analyze the data saved in the text files and to generate graphs and tables that show the student's progress over time.

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Q-Do you have software bundles for products recommended in the software charts?

A-Cambium Learning Technologies offers bundles for both the IntelliTools and Kurzweil product lines. However, other software titles recommended are not available from Cambium Learning Technologies.

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Q-What is the difference between--Stages: Assessment Software and Stages: Math (Number Sense)?

A-Stages: Assessment Software includes activities that are designed to provide an indication of the student's level of function and guide the appropriate selection of software or activities to meet the student's unique needs. It is NOT meant to be a curriculum for students.

Stages: Math (Number Sense) includes twenty+ accessible activities to use with student's for skill development in eight key areas of number sense: Words for Numbers - connect numbers with their names in multiple activities

1. Count - count objects up to 100, make number sets, use place value up to 999
2. Compare - show which is more or less (numbers, coins, dice, dominoes, etc.), use <, >, and = symbols
3. Sequence - practice skip counting, identify ordinals, put numbers in order
4. Math Facts - add, subtract and multiply at many levels, solve word problems
5. Money - count money, choose coins and bills to make a given total
6. Number Line - locate numbers, estimate large and small numbers, use fraction and decimal equivalents
7. Fractions - fill in sections of shapes, from halves to twelfths

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Q-Do you have a demonstration CD that I can evaluate with my colleagues?

A-No, there is no trial CD for Stages. However, Overview Videos can be viewed online at: www.stagesassessment.com. Call Cambium Learning Technologies customer service at 800.547.6747, if you have further questions.

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Q-Is an evaluation bundle available for professionals?

A-No, at present we do not have an evaluation bundle.

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Q-Can I use the software on a Macintosh® or Windows® computer?

A-Yes, Stages is cross-platform.

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Q-What are the system requirements to run Stages?

A-Macintosh: PowerPC®, System 7.5.3 or later (including OS X), 16 MB or more of available RAM, color monitor with at least 640x480 resolution and CD-ROM drive. Windows: Intel® Pentium® processor or greater, Windows 95/98/NT4/2000/XP, 16 MB or more of available RAM, color monitor with at least 640x480 resolution, and CD-ROM drive.

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Q-Do you offer a discount for ordering several copies for my school/organization?

A-Yes. Cambium Learning Technologies offers discounts for purchases at volume with the exception of the book, Stages: Software Solutions for Special Needs. The following schedule applies:

*Stages at Volume	
Tier	Discount
1 to 4 copies	None
5 to 9 copies	5%
10 to 19 copies	15%
20+ copies	20%

*Does not apply to Stages for Special Needs book