



Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for your interest in the Wilson Reading System® and giving us this opportunity to explain our program and the importance of professional learning for teachers.

The Wilson Reading System (WRS) is a multisensory, structured language program based on Orton-Gillingham principles and philosophy for teaching reading and spelling. The instruction is systematic (sequential and cumulative), multisensory, direct and diagnostic where the teaching plan is based on continuous assessment of the students' needs. The WRS is successful with students who are not making sufficient progress in an intervention setting or have a language-based learning disability, such as dyslexia.

Students who may require this intensive instruction should receive instruction in small groups or individually with a highly-skilled teacher. An essential factor for student success is teacher knowledge. Teachers must have an in-depth knowledge of language structure and demonstrate the ability to master multisensory and diagnostic instructional techniques.

To achieve this, Wilson Language Training provides extensive teacher training in the Wilson Reading System. The WRS Level I Certification program includes approximately 90 hours of online instruction, a 65-lesson practicum with a student and individual lessons including demonstration, observation and feedback meeting time with a Wilson® Credentialed Trainer. The time, effort and study involved with this program are considerable. Each trainee is expected to acquire a very sophisticated working knowledge of the sound symbol system of English (phonology) and its structure (morphology) as well as the use of specific diagnostic techniques in the teaching of reading and spelling.

WRS Level I Certification prepares teachers to use the program with individual students. A WRS Level I Certified individual is eligible for the Wilson® Dyslexia Practitioner (W.D.P.) credential. This credential recognizes individuals as prepared to diagnostically teach students identified with a language-based learning disability, such as dyslexia, at the beginning levels of encoding and reading.

Wilson also offers WRS Level II Certification to prepare teachers to successfully teach advanced concepts of language structure as well as deliver the program to small groups of students. A WRS Level II Certified individual is eligible for the Wilson® Dyslexia Therapist (W.D.T.) credential. This credential recognizes individuals as prepared to diagnostically teach students identified with a language-based learning disability, such as dyslexia, at advanced levels of encoding and reading and in group settings.

While some teachers with multisensory, structured language training and experience working with learners with dyslexia have used the WRS program and materials with a degree of success after attending the WRS Introductory Course, they are not considered trained in the Wilson Reading System. Our policy to provide a list of only WRS Certified Individuals who are currently credentialed as a Wilson Dyslexia Practitioner or Wilson Dyslexia Therapist is our way of assuring the integrity of the program. This supports the implementation of the program in the way it was designed so that students successfully learn to read and spell.

For students who do not require intensive instruction, Wilson also offers two additional programs, Foundations® and Just Words®.

- Foundations is a phonological/phonemic awareness, phonics and spelling program designed for the **general education** K-3 classroom. Based on the Wilson Reading System principles, it serves as a prevention program to help reduce reading and spelling failure. Foundations can also be implemented as an early intervention program for at-risk students who need additional support.
- Just Words is a highly explicit, multisensory decoding and spelling program for students in grades 4-12 and adults who do not require intensive intervention but do require explicit decoding and spelling instruction due to word-level deficits. Although Just Words instruction focuses on developing better decoding and encoding abilities, the Wilson Reading System addresses all five pillars of reading instruction, plus spelling, and is a more appropriate intervention for learners with a language-based learning disability, such as dyslexia.

Foundations and Just Words workshops, coaching visits, and Facilitator Certification are available to support teachers. WRS Level I or Level II certification is also recommended—but not required—to implement these programs because it provides a clear understanding of the principles and practices of all Wilson programs.

Please visit our website for additional information: [www.wilsonlanguage.com](http://www.wilsonlanguage.com).

Sincerely,



Deanna M. Fogarty

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Wilson Credentialed Trainer, Wilson Dyslexia Therapist