



## The 5-Step Process

# Using CARS & STARS Online in Your Homes

CARS & STARS Online is a comprehensive resource that allows you to identify and teach essential reading comprehension strategies. The CARS module is the assessment component, and the STARS module is the instruction component. The STARS module provides precise instruction and practice with the strategies that your child needs to master to achieve reading success.

## 01 The Placement Centre

### Conducting the Placement Test

A Placement Test is pre-set when a Child account is created. The Intelligent Placement option allocates the beginning Placement level for children based on their years of birth and any data from previous reading levels. You do not need to manually direct your children to take a Placement Test.

If you know that your children have learning differences, you can change the initial placement level to be lower than that recommended before they undertake the Placement Test. For more information on reviewing and changing the child's recommended placement level, [click here](#).

## How to Administer the Placement Test

When your children log in, they will be immediately directed to the Placement Centre to have their reading comprehension assessed. The Placement Centre evaluations test individual children's comprehension levels and place them in the appropriate CARS & STARS level based on this.

If you think you already have an idea of what each child's reading level should be, you can let them skip the Placement Test and directly assign an individual reading level for them to begin on. For more information on manually assigning a reading level, please [click here](#).

Once your children have completed their Placement Tests, a CARS & STARS reading level will be automatically created for them. Your children should remain in their designated CARS & STARS reading level for the entire school year, and not be stretched beyond their abilities.

## 02

### Diagnose with CARS

Once assigned a CARS & STARS reading level, your children can start working on CARS Pretests. Administer the five Pretests in the CARS module using CARS & STARS Online to diagnose strengths and weaknesses in the 12 reading comprehension strategies. After your children complete their Pretests, review their **Child Summary Report** (Pretest) and **Child Reading Strategy Performance Report**.

If you would like to reset the reading level for your children, please see [Reset the Reading Level \(CARS & STARS Series\)](#).

## 03

### A. Instruct with STARS

After completing Pretest diagnostics, six specific strategy STARS lessons based on the child's areas of need will be automatically recommended for the child in areas that need reinforcement. Once all six specific strategy lessons are completed, review the **Child Lesson Performance Report**.

### B. More Practice with FOCUS Reading

[FOCUS Reading](#) is a new module for children needing more practice in six core reading comprehension strategies. This module is designed for flexibility. It can complement the CARS & STARS module or be used as a standalone program at any time to provide concentrated practice for children.



If your children are using the CARS & STARS module: Once they have completed their five CARS Pretests and you have reviewed their **Child Summary Report (Pretest)** and are certain they are on the right level for their ability, you are ready to [assign them a FOCUS reading level](#). Your children's FOCUS Reading level should always parallel their CARS & STARS reading level. Children will be assigned up to three specific reading strategies that will be automatically recommended for them in FOCUS Reading. These recommended lessons can be used as additional practice in the reinforcement and understanding of the recommended strategies.

You may provide explicit instruction in the recommended strategies with the help of the Teaching Guides. Teaching Guides for all reading levels are accessible from the left-hand side navigation menu in your parent portal. For more information on accessing your children's profile page and various reports, [click here](#).

## 04 Benchmark/ Progress Monitoring

Throughout the year, administer the five Benchmark tests in CARS & STARS Online to monitor your child's progress. These tests provide practice in applying multiple reading strategies within a passage. Once all five Benchmark tests are completed, review the **Child Summary Report (Benchmark)**.

**Instruct with STARS:** Finish the remaining strategy lessons to build and reinforce the child's basic knowledge of reading strategies. After children complete the 12 lessons and four review lessons, they will begin the final review that provides practice in all 12 reading strategies.

Once all the strategy lessons are completed, review the **Child Lesson Performance Report**.

## 05 Assess Mastery with CARS Post Tests

Upon completion of the STARS lessons and Final Review, use CARS & STARS Online to administer the five Post Tests in the same way you administered the five Pretests.