

Waterford UPSTART — AI-Adaptive Home Reading Program Lifts Utah Preschoolers to Kindergarten Readiness

AI in Education · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 73/100

Evidence strength: Randomised controlled trial

Summary

A free, AI-adaptive home reading program for Utah preschoolers, WWC-reviewed with an ESSA Tier 1 rating: effect sizes of +0.50 to +0.90 and 77% of children met listening-comprehension benchmarks, vs. 65% (public) and 61% (private) preschool.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Teacher capability & pedagogy	1/3
Evidence of learning impact	3/3
Equity & inclusion	2/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	2/3
Scalability & sustainability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[Waterford.org](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[Waterford UPSTART program page](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[Evidence for ESSA — Waterford Upstart rating](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[Waterford.org: UPSTART found to have significant impact on early literacy gains](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

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