

Rebecca Sitton's APPLESEED



PLANT THE SEEDS TO GROW SPELLING AND WORD-SKILL LITERACY.

Ask Rebecca

Rebecca:

Do I need to complete my Sourcebook by the end of the school year?

Jason Chadwick
Primary Curriculum Leader

Dear Jason,

Curriculum planning and mapping is an important part of everyday teaching. Yet it is not always easy for teachers to predict how much time their students will need in order to learn a specific skill or concept. What we do know however, is that the classroom teacher is the one best equipped to make this determination.

Whether or not a Sourcebook is completed in a school year is directly linked to how much time is needed to complete each unit in that Sourcebook. After all, the amount of time needed to teach a Sourcebook unit can be dependent on several influencing factors including the learning styles and needs of your students, your goals concerning state standards, and the expectations of your school's principal and/or district regarding spelling instruction and achievement. Different units may also require more instructional time based on the specific skills and concepts presented in a unit. This

is supported by the program's design, which allows you to customize your instruction and to set your own instructional pace. For example, the Exercise Express and Seeds for Sowing Skills activities range in difficulty with some above and others below grade level. This range of activities enables you to pick and choose the ones that best meet your students' needs.

This ability to differentiate instruction, however, and to move at an instructional pace that works for you and your students can mean there may be times you do not complete a Sourcebook. If this occurs, it is not necessary to tell the next year's teacher to pick up where you left off, or to worry that your students are behind. On the contrary, these students are ready to move on to the next level Sourcebook. The reason? Because every word and skill will be recycled in next year's Sourcebook, so it is not necessary to finish the current Sourcebook before moving on to the next one.