



We are an education company founded in 1986 with the mission to accelerate learning for all.

We provide cloud-based assessment and practice solutions to over 45,000 schools across the world, helping 18 million students accelerate their learning in reading, English language learning and maths.

During the Education World Forum of 2019, we were approached by a representative from the Seychelles Government. They told us about their mission to improve English literacy rates in children and adults across their country. With the vast majority of citizens primarily speaking a local French creole language and very little English, this complex challenge required an innovative solution.



From planning the original pilot through to committing to a full three-year project, we always had confidence that Renaissance had our – and our children’s – best interests at heart. Their ability to understand our needs and practically apply their knowledge and experience in our schools enabled us to gain maximum benefit from the reading programme during the successful pilot. The children of the Seychelles have specific needs to reach their full potential, but through the strong and trusted relationship we have built with Renaissance we are confident that the wider objectives of the full project will be met.

Mrs Jeanne Simeon
Minister for Education

Our response was both quick and innovative.

A culmination of a number of meetings and calls that started after the Education World Forum in London in January 2019 saw our colleagues meet Government officials and teachers to establish the best way of working together. Our first visit to the Seychelles was in May 2019. We then set up a pilot across five primary schools in the country involving 500 children aged 7-10 and 65 teachers.

The pilot was a joint initiative of the Seychelles Government and Renaissance that was officially launched by Dr Odile de Commarmond, the Principal Secretary for Early Childhood, at a special ceremony that received press and TV coverage. The Minister for Education, Jeanne Simeon, and members of the senior management committee of the department were also in attendance along with representatives from Renaissance.

Star Assessments™

myON® Reader

Accelerated Reader™



The pilot began with two teacher training workshops on how to access and build confidence in the use of our literacy programmes – Star Assessments, myON and Accelerated Reader.

Our Star Early Literacy assessment was used with some of the children to pinpoint their exact decoding abilities and measure their current English reading ability, whilst Star Reading established their comprehension and progress. A wide range of books, songs, rhymes and poems from both the UK and the USA were also made available to the children and teachers through our digital reading platform, myON. Using the myON app or via a web browser, children could read both in school and at home – downloading books at school to read later even without internet access.

Everyone has been impressed by the results.



In total, over 6,500 books were read during the pilot. One child alone read 29 books in just nine weeks! 75 teachers and librarians have now been trained to support further roll-out amongst more schools across the Seychelles.



Timeline


April/May 2019



- We visited five primary schools, meeting 500 children
- Star Early Literacy was used to establish the children's decoding capabilities
- Children were introduced to myON and given the opportunity to read a wide range of texts from the UK and the USA 
- Star Reading was used to measure comprehension and progress
- Teachers and assistant teachers received ongoing training 
- Teachers were also given extra ICT training to help

June/July 2019



- We ran further workshops for newly trained teachers and librarians
- The pilot was completed 
- We collated the results and discovered that the children read over 6,500 books
- We celebrated the success with an awards ceremony, attended by Government officials, teachers and children 