UPSTART is an in-home preschool program that uses Waterford Institute’s award-winning software. UPSTART provides preschool-age children (the year before they enter kindergarten) with an individualized reading, math, and science curriculum, with a focus on reading instruction. With research-based programs and a unique User Support team, UPSTART forms a partnership with parents to ensure their children obtain the education necessary to start them on the path to success in school.

THE UPSTART PROGRAM CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS

COMPUTER-BASED CURRICULUM + USER SUPPORT
UPSTART’s Preschool Software

Waterford Institute’s software provides children with an individualized, engaging preschool curriculum of reading, math, and science. Using *Rusty and Rosy Learn with Me™* as the main curriculum, UPSTART focuses on reading readiness. UPSTART also uses *Camp Consonant®*—a program designed to assist multi-sensory learners—and *Waterford Assessments of Core Skills™*—an adaptive assessment of early literacy for young children.

**Rusty and Rosy Learn with Me**

As a comprehensive computer-based curriculum, *Rusty and Rosy Learn with Me™* provides unmatched curricular depth and richness to young learners.

Composed of reading, math, and science instruction, this award-winning program is based on years of research, teaching more than just ABCs and 123s. Children travel through engaging stories, discover new ideas, and become confident in their learning success. Dozens of studies show the program dramatically increases performance for children of all backgrounds.

**RUSTY AND ROSY LEARN WITH ME INCLUDES**
- 2,500+ lessons
- 7,000+ activities
- 360 digital books
- 330 animated songs
- 450+ instructional hours
- Free Play menu for unguided practice
- Hundreds of printable resources
- Progress reports
Based on rigorous research, Camp Consonant® is a web-based multisensory program that uses focused instruction and repetition to teach children fundamental reading and writing skills. Camp Consonant emphasizes phonemic awareness, multi-sensory activities, and explicit instruction proven effective in helping young children overcome reading struggles. The program provides stimulation of learning through multiple channels. Concepts are introduced, restated differently, and reinforced as practice activities. Plus, it is fun and engaging, making it a useful tool for building strong, confident readers.

**CAMP CONSONANT INCLUDES**
- 2,700+ individual activities
- 150+ hours of instruction
- Books, songs, and videos
- A built-in system of reinforcement that rewards children’s efforts

**Waterford Assessments of Core Skills**
As an adaptive computer-administered test, Waterford Assessments of Core Skills™ gives an accurate indication of each child’s reading readiness and competence. Waterford Assessments of Core Skills is based on five years of research and is aligned to both national and state standards. Assessing student’s emerging literacy skills is crucial for identifying areas where a child may be falling behind. Waterford Assessments of Core Skills specifically addresses the need to provide assessment data for young children, including preschoolers who cannot read.

**IN UPSTART**
- Children are screened two times during the year at specified locations
- The average assessment time is 20 minutes
- Children are screened in 10 essential pre-literacy and reading skills
- Support staff and parents are provided with the full range of a child’s capabilities rather than just a satisfactory or unsatisfactory assessment
In addition to powerful educational software, UPSTART children and their parents or caregivers benefit from Waterford Institute’s Learning Support Center. The UPSTART support organization maintains frequent contact through

- Written materials
- Online and in-person training
- E-mail
- Phone calls

The support center’s strategy is to provide families with a steady stream of data on children’s usage and performance as well as to introduce motivational strategies for maintaining parent and child interest. This unique support system forms a partnership with parents to ensure their children obtain the education necessary to start them on the path to success in school.

Training and support are provided in both English and Spanish to make the program accessible to as many children as possible.
What Utah Parents and Caregivers are Saying

UPSTART is currently in its fifth year. Funded by the state of Utah, the program is statewide, with more than seven thousand children participating to date. Parents with children in the program are regularly asked to evaluate UPSTART and their children’s experiences in the program and every year their evaluations return with exceptionally high ratings.

**EVALUATION RESULTS FROM MORE THAN 900 UTAH PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS** (year four)

- **99.3%** felt UPSTART helped prepare their child for kindergarten.
- **99.8%** felt participating in UPSTART was beneficial.
- **99.4%** would recommend the program to family and friends.
- **98.6%** felt the content was appropriate for the age of their child.
- **98.2%** felt that the children enjoyed the software.
- **99.7%** felt that the user support representatives were friendly and knowledgeable and wanted to help them succeed.
UPSTART DIPLOMA

This certifies that [name] has completed the UPSTART Program.

[Signature of UPSTART Coordinator]

UPSTART
Utah UPSTART Results

Assessing a child’s emerging literacy skills is crucial for identifying areas where that child may be falling behind, and can lead directly to increased reading success. Assessment is also important for providing program sponsors with results data in order to measure the success of the investment.

In UPSTART Waterford Assessments of Core Skills™ specifically addresses the need to provide this key data. The program scores ten essential pre-literacy skills, and scoring is broken into three different groupings indicating the relative skill level for that grade:

- **BEGINNING LEVEL** (BEG) indicates values falling into the lower third of the ability scores for the grade.
- **INTERMEDIATE LEVEL** (INT) indicates values falling into the middle third of the ability scores for the grade.
- **ADVANCED LEVEL** (ADV) indicates values falling into the top third of the ability scores for the grade.

Example: If a child receives a Kindergarten Advanced score for letter sound, the score indicates that the child’s ability is similar to the ability level of the top third of kindergartners nationwide.

The following year-end results for year three of the Utah UPSTART program are based on the final session of Waterford Assessments of Core Skills and show that even before they started kindergarten, UPSTART children most often scored at the Kindergarten Advanced level or within First Grade levels. This is regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, geographic locale, and whether or not the children had additional preschool.

*Highest score possible in Letter Recognition is Kindergarten Beginning
Utah Program Testimonials
FROM UPSTART PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

“It has basically taught her to read, which I think is amazing coming from a computer program. She goes to a regular preschool and UPSTART does so much more for her academically.”

“One day Jack read a sentence that had a difficult word. I asked, ‘Do you know what xyz means?’ He responded with his best guess and was spot on. I was so shocked, I asked, ‘How did you know what xyz meant?’ to which he responded, ‘I just looked at the words around it and then figured it out.’ Again, I was shocked! ‘Where did you learn how to do that?’ I asked. He replied, ‘Rusty and Rosy.’”

“When I went to my child’s kindergarten registration for his testing, his teacher was surprised at how well he knew all of his letters and sounds. She asked who his preschool teacher was. I said, ‘He learned them from UPSTART.’”
“Our family was introduced to Camp Consonant through the UPSTART program and we have been using it since October. My son learns in a different way than a lot of other children and **this program gives him instruction in a way that is easier to understand.**”

“My son has a summer birthday and we waited an extra year before kindergarten because we had struggled so much to work with him on his letters and letter sounds. If he didn’t know something, he just ‘shut down’ and quit trying. A friend referred us to UPSTART, and **Rusty and Rosy unlocked something in Derek...** He gained confidence in the one-on-one setting with the computer, then couldn’t wait to show us all he was learning. **He is reading now, and I give 100% of the credit to UPSTART.”**

“Isaac was counting the money from his piggy bank. He had a bunch of ones, a five, and a twenty-dollar bill. I was listening to him count: 20, 21, 22, . . . 28, 33, 43. I was amazed; he was adding the bill denominations in his head as he accurately counted his money. This was because of the addition games and all the number songs arranged in a way to show number patterns.”

“Two of my children used the program. They both loved the songs and the activities. One of my children is an auditory learner. She loved the songs and the rhymes. My other child is a visual/manipulative learner. She loved all of the animations and the computer movement (using the mouse). **The program involved so many different methods of learning/teaching! Thank you!”**

“It was extremely gratifying the day my son picked up a book and began sounding out the words. **That was the moment I realized we had achieved our goal. It was great!”**

“**UPSTART is the reason my son is prepared to go to school.** It has given him the knowledge to help him succeed in kindergarten. It has also given him the confidence to excel at school.”

We have had two children benefit from the program. Because of many moves, [my son] wasn’t enrolled in a traditional preschool. I am confident that he has had **so much success in Kindergarten and 1st grade because of UPSTART.** He is a top reader and he is learning his math facts in multiplication before 2nd grade. My daughter recently completed the UPSTART program. She was assessed by her Kindergarten teacher recently and was **so confident and comfortable with her letters and numbers** that she wanted to do the assessment again!
Learn More About UPSTART

For more information on UPSTART in Utah, visit www.utahupstart.org (content available in both English and Spanish).

Or contact us at 1-801-349-2348 or success@waterford.org.

About Waterford Institute

Founded by Dr. Dustin Heuston in 1976, Waterford Institute™ is a non-profit research organization dedicated to providing all children the finest education through the development of high-quality, award-winning educational models, programs, and software. Today, Waterford Institute is a world leader in early learning software for reading, math, and science programs. Dozens of studies have validated the effectiveness of Waterford Institute’s programs, and millions of children across the country and around the world have and continue to benefit from using the programs.