



New Zealand

# Product Information on SuccessMaker

October 2002

Addressing Numeracy and Literacy Concerns for Students of all  
Ages and Abilities, Culture and Gender, in an Individual and Cost  
Effective Manner



## Introduction

### Who is SuccessMaker NZ

SuccessMaker NZ is the New Zealand distributor for NCS Learn's comprehensive, interactive educational software, SuccessMaker.

Providing thousands of hours of customized instruction for the pre kindergarten to adult learner, SuccessMaker NZ is continuing to expand and enhance its multimedia offerings in New Zealand in order to improve student achievement and enhance classroom management alongside teachers.

SuccessMaker NZ is already recognized throughout New Zealand as a leader in education but aims to be the ICT resource of choice in the practice of educating young minds for tomorrow in a manner that is Measurable, Individualized and Accountable "with tools not toys"

SuccessMaker has been in New Zealand since 1992 and its courseware is now available in over 100 schools nationwide.

### The Director

Viv Armstrong is the Director of SuccessMaker NZ.

Viv has a strong background of teaching, senior management and administration experience in schools spread over many years. She has a particular interest in numeracy and literacy and the targeting of individual needs.



### What is SuccessMaker

SuccessMaker is award-winning curriculum that has been helping educators and learners achieve success in schools for the last 30 years.

SuccessMaker™ combines the power of computer based multimedia with carefully developed learning science to provide teachers with a powerful tool to help the students in Math, English and Science.

The SuccessMaker product is a world leader producing outstanding results in Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand and many other countries worldwide. It's 30 year development has given SuccessMaker™ unparalleled diagnostic and instructional routines providing individualised courses of study for each student.

The outcomes of SuccessMaker™ are real and sustainable learning gains for the student, with sophisticated tracking of student progress and forecasting of future development.

### The Need for SuccessMaker

In recent years teaching has become more challenging than ever. Class sizes are larger and student needs are more diverse. The pressure to "demonstrate results" has increased. There is a growing national focus on the need to improve core skills in numeracy and literacy. In addition motivating students is more and more difficult in today's multimedia world.

To meet all these often-conflicting demands, teachers need new resources and new tools to manage those resources effectively. These can all be found on Success Maker™



## The Product

SuccessMaker™ software includes more than 50 courses/titles offering over 5000 hours of interactive learning in reading, language arts, math, science, ESL bilingual programmes and life skills development. SuccessMaker™ offers a balanced flexible curriculum that unifies support for essential learning strategies with innovative environments for open-ended learning.

A set of powerful yet easy to use tools enables educators to manage their options these are:



### The Instructional Design Philosophy of SuccessMaker™

#### **Foundations**

Are the building blocks of SuccessMaker™ that guide students through the fundamentals of math, reading, writing and science.

Essential skills are reinforced through the acquisition of key concepts, application of problem solving strategies and continuous progress assessment to monitor student's success.

#### **Assessment & Management**

Tools help teachers apply the right mix of foundations and exploreware, or even software from other sources to address the learning needs of each student. With these tools, teachers can assess student performance, determine appropriate learning sequences, manage student portfolios and continually monitor progress. Detailed reports help teachers provide personalised learning paths for students and document their progress for accountability.

#### **Exploreware**

Presents students with exciting real world challenges to stimulate their critical thinking and problem solving skills. Guided open ended explorations provide rich opportunities for individual and collaborative student-centered learning. Students discover connections between classroom subjects and the world around them.

## Award Winning Curriculum

SuccessMaker's award winning curriculum includes courses in Mathematics, Reading/ Language Arts and Science for students in Years 1 - 12.

Through challenging, engaging multi-media learning activities, the courses help students develop and maintain essential math, reading and writing skills. The courses also provide opportunity for applying skills in real world simulations and explorations.

The SuccessMaker curriculum is aligned to NZ national curriculum standards and requirements



## Science and Math

Comprising of thousands of hours of coursework, tutorials and activities the SuccessMaker Math and Science program is far reaching in its depth and breadth of topics, including remedial and extension material to suit any age or ability.

### Age Course

- Y1 - Adult Math Concepts and Skills
- Y1 - 5 Math Corner
- Y4 - 8 Problem Solving
- Y5 - 11 Math Processor
- Y6 - 10 Math Investigations
- Y8 - 11 Enrichment Math



### Math and Science

### Age Course

- Y9 - Adult Algebra Topics
- Y9 - Adult GED Math - Assessment
- Y7 - 10 Science Discovery
- Y9 - Adult GED Science - Assessment



### ESL

## Reading and Language Arts

Utilising New Zealand proven methodologies in teaching the basics of how to teach reading and writing. SuccessMaker provides a rewarding experience to all those students engaging in its coursework and provides excellent feedback on each and every students progress whilst allowing custom designed courses to maximise their potential.

### Age Course

- Approx. RA: 5 - 6 Reading Readiness
- Approx. RA: 6 - 8 Initial Reading
- Approx. RA: 5 - 7+ First Adventures Bookshelf
- Approx. RA: 5 - 6+ Reading Adventures Primary
- Approx. RA: 8 - 13 Readers Workshop
- Approx. RA: 8 -11 Reading Adventures
- Approx. RA: 11 -14 Reading Investigations
- Approx. RA: 6 -12 The Reading Network
- Approx. RA: 12 - Adult Critical Reading Skills
- Y10 - 12 GED - Literature/Arts/Writing



### School to Work

### Age Course

- Approx. RA: 5 - 8 Discover English
- Approx. RA: 7 -14 Spelling Skills
- Y3 - 9 Writer's Studio
- Y1 - 6+ Story Painter
- Y6 - 9 Practical Reading
- Y8 - 12 Language Arts Strands
- Y7 - 12 Fundamentals of English
- Y4 - 7 Writers Express



### Reading and Language Arts

For more information on SuccessMaker Curriculum and full course outlines please visit us online at [www.successmakernz.co.nz](http://www.successmakernz.co.nz)



## Essential Skills and Discovery Based Learning

Programme goals and instructional styles differ from classroom to classroom. SuccessMaker's flexible curriculum meets teachers varying needs by providing courses that build essential math, reading and writing skills and courses that encourage exploration and discovery.

For example teachers can use Reading Adventures a literature based reading course, to give students experience in reading and responding to award winning books, as well as to provide strong foundational instruction in essential reading strategies.

### Dynamic Learning Tools

SuccessMaker™ provides the reading, writing and math tools students need for successful learning from online notebooks, graphic organisers and project planners to calculators, spreadsheets and fraction strips.

## Meeting Standards

SuccessMaker courses align with the NZ curriculum standards and the national standards of professional organisations in mathematics, reading and science as well as International standards such as the International Reading Association. (IRA). The curriculum also aligns with major textbook programmes and key standardised tests. The management system can be used to create a customised instructional programme to meet identified standards and objectives.

Progress is reported as being significant by NZ schools using the SuccessMaker™ program.

The schools find that SuccessMaker gain assessments tend to be conservative when compared to the results of independent pre and post testing of students on widely accepted standard tests.

In other words the gain of students is actually better than the SuccessMaker system claims

## The Right Instruction at the Right Time

SuccessMaker™ individualises instruction by precisely monitoring each students progression through the courseware in providing the right instruction at the right time.

If a student experiences difficulty the system delivers extra practice or instruction in the form of a tutorial or lesson. If a student is excelling, the system provides more challenging material.

SuccessMaker™ continually monitors student retention of skills, and provides for ongoing maintenance.

Where skills have been forgotten, they are identified and automatically built back into the students' current programme.

## Self-Paced Learning

Students progress at their own rates, building new skills – and experiencing success and growing confidence – as they advance through each course.

*" I saw SuccessMaker as a programme that could give students appropriate individualised learning, SuccessMaker does what a good teacher would do if they had the time!"*

*"Mark all the work, record all the assessments and adjust the programmes of work to suit individual needs"*

*Michael Taaffe - Principal Mahora School, Hastings*





## Management System Introduction

SuccessMaker™ enables you to implement the curriculum solution that's best for your school's needs. Seamlessly integrated into SuccessMaker's educational software, the management system allows teachers to easily enroll students, customise instruction, generate reports and accurately assess, track and forecast student progress at any time. SuccessMaker's management system makes it easy to monitor and direct the progress of every student, and provide each with individualised learning. It is the superior tool for gaining positive results with instructional technology.

## Benefits of the SuccessMaker Management System

School Principals have information on demand for decisions about use of resources, instruction and programme effectiveness. They can quickly prepare for a parent conference by looking up student performance records that summarise data throughout the year, show current status and even forecast time needed to meet learning goals.

Technology Administrators see state of the art managed multi-media instruction and efficient use of technology resources, including use of third party software. They can easily manage the use of instructional resources from comprehensive, multi-media courses across grade levels to standalone software and tools.

Teachers have a wide range of curriculum materials and dynamically updated performance information on each student, including computer based student portfolios. They can work with special needs, remedial, mainstream and gifted students in the same classroom, with individual attention to each.

Students experience success, with instruction adapted to their individual needs. They also have the ability to create their own computer-based portfolios and exchange messages electronically with their teachers. The student gains confidence in his or her abilities for the first time and is challenged to move into new areas of learning.

Parents gain confidence in the education experience and share in up-to-date performance information about their children through computer – based parent letters, reports, activity sheets and portfolio writing.



*"One particular student's success is noteworthy, a 14 year old boy with a 7 year developmental delay in reading, various learning disabilities, severe behavior problems and an intense and vocal dislike of previous remedial intervention. This unwilling student metamorphosed before our eyes as he found meaning, esteem and success on SuccessMaker"*

Hillmorton High School, Christchurch



## Management Systems Overview

With SuccessMaker™ educational software, teachers benefit from instructional technology without having to become system integrators or data managers.

The built in management tools help teachers apply the right mix of basic fundamentals and open ended learning to provide balanced instruction that meets the needs of each student. Teachers gain the value of increased efficiency and flexibility, less paperwork and readily available information about student progress and needs.

**The management system provides a friendly graphic interface to easily perform these key functions:**

- Enroll students in courses
- Customise courses
- Review student performance
- Manage and assess student portfolios
- Manage third party software



All these capabilities save time, allowing the teacher to spend more of each day working with students, guiding, coaching and tutoring for specific needs:

## One Powerful Management System

The SuccessMaker management system simplifies the processes of enrolling students and producing reports with a single Management System for all courses. It runs on Macintosh and Windows computers. It provides full functionality on all configurations, from a stand alone station to wide area networks. On the network, teachers can access the SuccessMaker Management System from any station at any time.

- Curriculum, Instruction and assessment are all supported by the SuccessMaker Management System.
- Curriculum: Powerful planning tools for the teacher
- Teachers can plan instruction to suit their goals and teaching styles.
- Instruction: Delivery of personalised learning
- Each student receives individualised instruction.
- Assessment: Accountability for Quality Education

Through multiple forms of assessment, teachers and administrators have immediate access to the performance information on all the subjects that they need for parent conferences, special reports and instructional decisions.

## The Senior Management Team

Improving school attendance and student attitude is a constant concern for many managers. How do you increase the motivation of students to attend classes and recover their development in literacy and numeracy?

SuccessMaker's motivation and feedback system has proved effective over many years in bringing back the reluctant learner into the classroom. Most importantly the reporting system within SuccessMaker™ provides valuable measures of the effectiveness of the learning-taking place.

Alongside this senior managers are concerned about how to fulfil Ministry of Education requirements and code of practice on the identification and assessment of Special Education Needs.

SuccessMaker™ can play a major part in the developmental programme for pupils identified under this code of practice.



## Checklist for Management Systems

This checklist of critical management features can be used to help evaluate instructional technology support for the classroom and form the basis of any instructional technology review process.

SuccessMaker™ has all of these features:

### Management

- ☉ Capability to select themes, sequence of material and instructional approach in some courses.
- ☉ A dynamic tool for forecasting each student's time needed to reach an achievement goal based on individual learning rate.
- ☉ Capability to perform all management operations from any station at any time.
- ☉ Capability to enroll students and report on third party software.
- ☉ Same management system on stand-alone system, small networks large networks, Macintosh and Windows.

### Individualisation

- ☉ Initial placement strategy to find appropriate learning level
- ☉ Individualised instruction across a range of skills and learning strategies
- ☉ Automatic individualised review for remediation, retention and review of unmastered content.
- ☉ Automatic adjustment of instruction to focus on areas on which the student is weak.

### Reports of Student progress

- ☉ Administrative summary reports in graphic format, showing the relationship of time and gain.
- ☉ Individual student reports organised by objectives in graphic format.
- ☉ Easy to read narrative parent reports with current performance data.
- ☉ Reports that show individual student performance, group data, total time on task and instructional gains.
- ☉ Custom report facility for editing or creating new formats.
- ☉ Computer-based management of student portfolios, with comment files

*"Records of every student's progress have been kept and analysed. The results have surpassed all expectations. Progress in reading and reading comprehension has been particularly impressive"*

**Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton**





## Individualised Instruction

How does a teacher address the individual needs of a diverse group of students, including the special needs of remedial and gifted students?

With the SuccessMaker curriculum software, it's easy to give each student individualised instruction because:

- The initial placement process locates each student's appropriate starting level.
- Intelligent branching automatically selects appropriate strategies for learning.
- Ongoing adjustment of level and content supports steady growth.
- Access to instructional resources encourages students' active participation in learning.
- Students are fully engaged by interactive multi-media learning experiences.

The SuccessMaker management system adapts instruction to individual learners

## Assessing Student Performance

How can the management system support multiple forms of assessment?

SuccessMaker courses offer a variety of tools to support the ongoing assessment of reading, writing, science, mathematics and thinking skills.

### They include:

- Embedded Continuous Progress Assessment
- Reports for instructional management
- A computer based portfolio for authentic assessment of tasks and assignments
- Holistic scoring rubrics
- Student self – assessment tools



## Embedded Continuous Progress Assessment

Embedded assessment is based on student responses the computer can judge. As student responses are evaluated, the results are used to:

- Adapt the course appropriately to the student
- Inform the teacher about student performance

This continuous embedded assessment yields a view of the student's performance and growth across a broad spectrum of objectives aligned with standards and national frameworks. It is criterion referenced, and the reports track progress by objectives and strategies. Reports also show computer-based resources the student is using, such as glossaries and tutorials and how much time the student is spending using tools such as computer based notebooks.



## Reports for Planning and Accountability

With the management system, educators have immediate access to the performance information they need for parent conferences, special reports and instructional decisions.

Teachers and Administrators can, on Demand:

- View current performance information from embedded assessment
- Replace separate testing with continuous progress assessment
- See progress by individual student, classes or special groups
- Manage student portfolios and guide student work through an exchange of attached comments
- Identify areas of need
- Help students reach goals by using the forecasting report of time needed.



No longer do teachers, administrators and parents have to wait until separate testing sessions are held to see how students are progressing. At any time they can run reports and view student portfolios.

### The Management System Provides Many Report Types Including:

- *Summary Reports* – overview of group progress to show a global view.
- *Performance Reports* – Individual or group reports on performance, including time, gain and objective achieved, so teachers know how students are doing.
- *Intervention Reports* – Identify specific areas that individual students or classes are having difficulty with, so teachers can form learning groups, or work with individuals to remediate.
- *Forecasting Report* – shows of time needed by individual students to reach goals in maths and reading, so teachers can plan for achievement.
- *Management Reports* – Checking on attendance, enrollment options etc, for quick access to needed information.





## Feedback From New Zealand and Around the World

**Only SuccessMaker™ can Provide an Individual Course Mapped to Each Student's Needs, and do so Automatically.**

- This has resulted in significant learning gains: in one project, gains of up to 20 months in number skills in just a six month period. Similar gains in reading have also been noted.
- The software has been effective in identifying specific and individual areas of need of students, highlighting areas for teacher intervention.
- Improvements in work have continued into other classroom activities.
- Significant gains for ESL students have been observed.

**SuccessMaker™ Provides Challenging Work in an Attractive Multi-Media Environment with Colour, Sound, Animation and Video**

- The majority of students value their time on the system, They feel they are making progress and appreciate the calm, private learning atmosphere.
- Students normally described as having behaviour problems seem able to concentrate and are making significant gains.
- Children with poor concentration skills have shown substantial improvement.

**SuccessMaker™ has Enabled Schools to Find New and Effective Ways to Manage and Resource Learning**

- This has led to higher "time on task" with lower pupil/pupil and teacher/ pupil interaction than in normal classrooms. Schools cite 30 minutes time on task in half an hour compared with a normal maximum of 20 minutes.
- Teachers have adopted creative strategies - using the presence of a number of SuccessMaker stations to split their classes and work more individually with the remainder. This means that pupil/teacher ratios have been improved by the use of the system.

**Containing a vast amount of material available in an easily managed form, SuccessMaker™ is appropriate to primary, secondary and adult learning.**



*I wish to endorse the SuccessMaker programme.*

*The computer assisted learning programme supplied by SuccessMaker NZ is quite outstanding. I am yet to see a more powerful learning tool than software provided in this package. The programme benefits the full range of children including our gifted and special needs programmes."*

**A C Sissons - Headmaster Southwell School, Hamilton**