

# Amira on Chromebooks: Recommended Setup & Instructions

Amira can work well on Chromebooks, and a quick setup routine (plus a few student habits) makes a big difference – especially for high-stakes assessments.

## Chromebook Readiness Checklist

Before starting, check to make sure that your device is set up correctly for use with Amira.

- Update ChromeOS:** Amira works on the current version of ChromeOS – older versions are not guaranteed to work.
- Update Google Chrome:** Follow any update prompts. If issues continue, clear your browser cache and cookies.
- Always allow the microphone:** To verify: **3-dot menu** → **Settings** → **Privacy and Security** → **Site Settings** → **Microphone**. Confirm student.app.amiralearning.com is listed under *Allowed*.
- Check microphone settings:** Click the time (bottom-right) → audio arrow → confirm correct input device. **Set input to 50%.**

## Explicitly Teach Student Behaviors

Model and practice behaviors that help Amira hear student reading clearly.

FOR STUDENTS USING THE <u>CHROMEBOOK MICROPHONE</u>	
Setup Recommendations	Behaviors to Teach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Position the Chromebook 6–12 inches away from the student.</li> <li>• Make sure nothing is covering the built-in microphone (often near the camera).</li> <li>• Avoid cases that block microphone openings.</li> </ul>	<p><b>“Stay in the Goldilocks zone”</b> Sit about 6–12 inches from the Chromebook and use a “just right” reading voice — not too loud and not too soft.</p> <p><b>“Back to the noise.”</b> Face away from noisy areas and avoid side conversations during reading.</p>

## FOR STUDENTS USING A HEADSET WITH A MICROPHONE

### Setup Recommendations

- Plug the headset directly into the Chromebook **before** opening Amira.
- Check the Control Center to confirm the headset is selected for audio input and output.
- Click the **time** → **Audio settings** → **Confirm** the headset is selected for:
  - **Input** (microphone)
  - **Output** (headphones)
- Set microphone volume to 50% and keep it there. This reduces background noise and keeps voices at the right level.
- Keep mic monitoring or sidetone features OFF to avoid distracting audio delay.
- Position the microphone correctly: About one finger-width from the corner of the mouth, not directly in front.

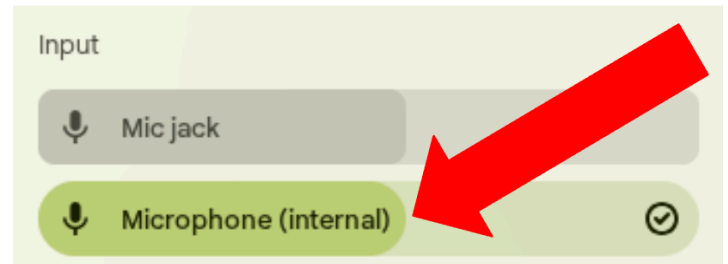
### Behaviors to Teach

#### “Plug in first”

Always plug in the headset before opening Amira. This helps prevent audio issues or freezing.

#### “Check your mic”

Before starting, make sure the microphone volume is set to 50%.



#### “Hands off”

Keep your hands away from the microphone while reading. Don't touch, cover, or adjust the microphone while reading.

#### “Mic in Corner of Mouth”

Keep the mic one finger-width from the corner of the mouth — not on the lips or directly in front.



#### “Stay in the Goldilocks zone”

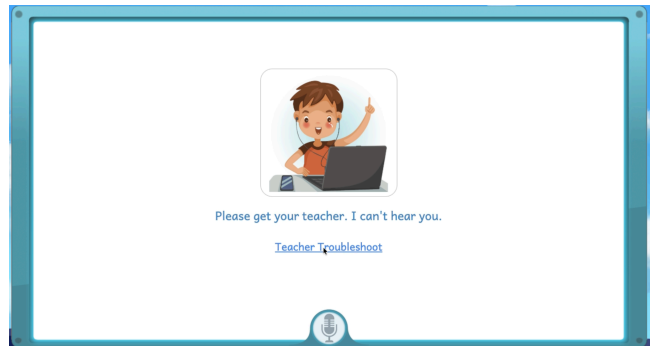
Use a “just right” reading voice—not too loud and not too soft.

## Real-Time "Dead Air" Troubleshooting

Amira now includes a built-in check to catch microphone issues right at the start of a session, during the Ready Module (the "It's time to read now" check). If no transcript is returned, the session pauses and prompts teacher intervention so audio issues don't go unnoticed for an entire assessment or tutor session.

### How it Works:

- If the system cannot hear the student or return a transcript, it will pause and display a message: "Please get your teacher. I can't hear you".
- A Teacher Troubleshoot modal automatically launches within the platform.



### Teacher Troubleshoot Capabilities:

- **Listen to the student's recording** with a visual waveform to identify issues like static, clipping, low volume, or background noise.
- **Test the microphone live**, including the ability for teachers to listen back to their own test audio.
- **Guided troubleshooting flows**, separated into:
  - **Student Use Issues** (e.g., mic too far away, speaking too softly, background noise)
  - **Device/Mic Issues** (e.g., muted device, wrong input selected, hardware problems)
- **Access to in-platform guidance** and a linked help article for further support.

