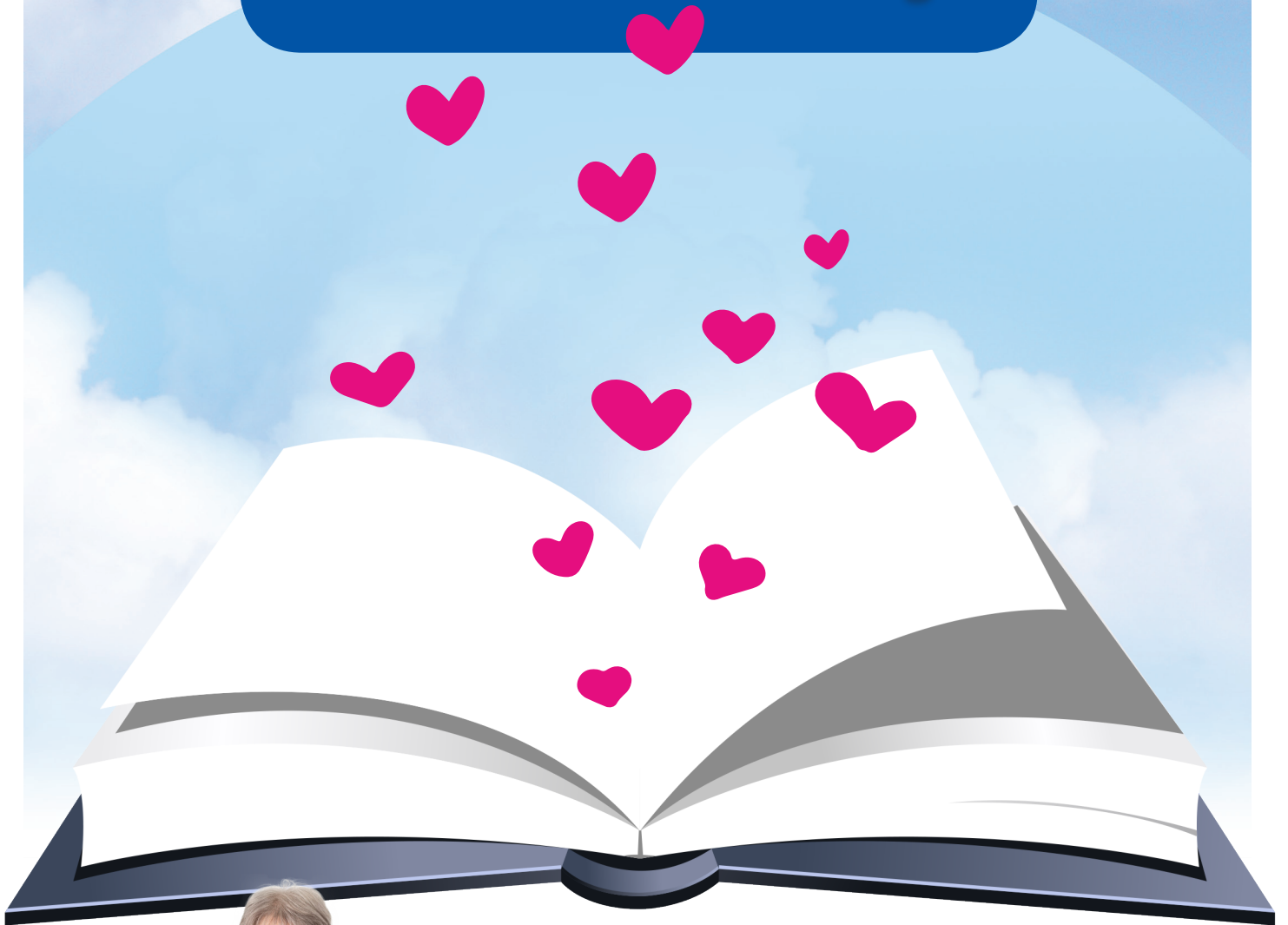


# Phonics

## The Path to Reading



**Janice Price**  
Curriculum Consultant  
[consultants@rainbowresource.com](mailto:consultants@rainbowresource.com)

### Questions? Just Ask...

Our friendly consultant team is here to answer your questions FREE, M-F, 8:30-5 CT.



888.841.3456



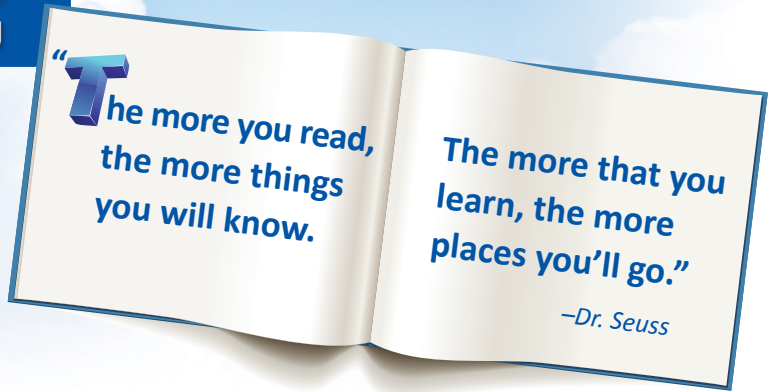
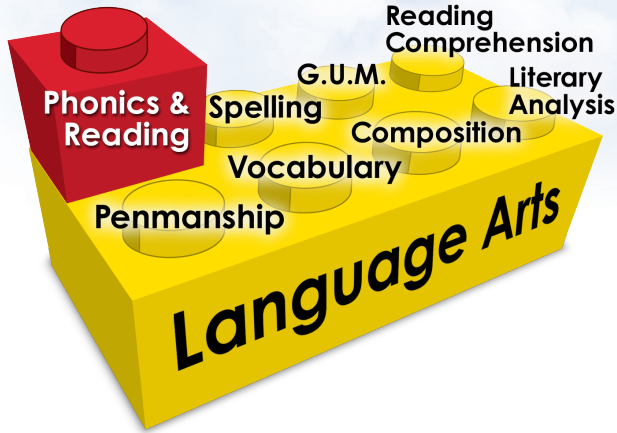
LiveChat from [rainbowresource.com](http://rainbowresource.com)



[consultants@rainbowresource.com](mailto:consultants@rainbowresource.com)



888.841.3456 • [www.rainbowresource.com](http://www.rainbowresource.com)



**Cornerstone of Language Arts:**

Reading is the starting place for it all. It's the foundational skill for all the other skills in Language Arts.

**Timeline:**

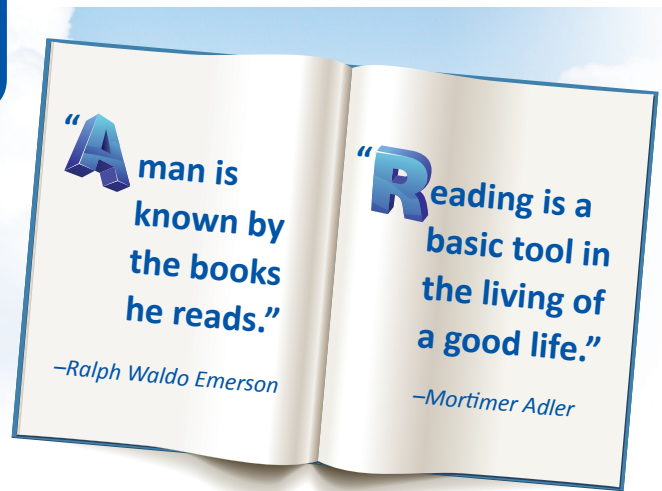
1500-1700	◆ "Horn Books" one page with alphabet, simple syllabary, Lord's Prayer
1700s	◆ Bible, Pilgrim's Progress, and Shakespeare used to teach reading
1783	◆ Noah Webster's Blue Back Speller
1836	◆ Original McGuffey Readers
1844	◆ Horace Mann's Seventh Report advocates whole word methods for teaching reading
1879	◆ McGuffey's Eclectic Readers (1836) revised
1900	◆ Progressive Education Movement first part 20th century
1900-1930	◆ Whole word methods continue, but supplementary phonics were used as well, resulting in excellent spelling and reading abilities
1930-1970	◆ Dick and Jane Readers
1955	◆ Why Johnny Can't Read
1950-2000	◆ Last half 20th century debate between phonics and whole language
1980-1990s	◆ Explosion of whole word approach—becomes known as whole language
2000	◆ National Reading Panel research
2001	◆ "No Child Left Behind" mandates Phonics instruction
2006	◆ Phonics acknowledged as helpful for dyslexic and challenged readers
2022	◆ "Balanced literacy" or "sound-first literacy" is the norm



## 5 Pillars of Reading Instruction:



- 1. Phonemic awareness:** phonemes are the sounds that letters or a combination of letters make.
- 2. Phonics:** knowing at least some of the rules that govern sounding out words—decoding.



- 3. Fluency:** the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression.
- 4. Vocabulary:** the ability to decode, to know the meaning of and to properly use a growing number of words.
- 5. Comprehension:** the ability to derive meaning from the printed word.

### Definitions:

- **Reading Comprehension:** to understand the meaning of written language.
- **Decoding:** the ability to look at a word and be able to correctly pronounce it. For instance, “s-t-o-p” is pronounced “stop”.
- **Systematic Phonics Instruction:** is a set of phonics elements—or phonemes—that are identified and taught in a specific order.
  - **Synthetic Phonics:** a form of systematic phonics where students are taught to link an individual letter or letter combination with its appropriate sound and then blend the sounds to form words. In other words, the sounds are being synthesized into words. *Examples: All About Reading; Abeka Phonics; Horizon’s Phonics and Reading; Phonics Pathways; Primary Phonics; Jolly Phonics.*
  - **Analogy Phonics (Word Families Approach):** a form of systematic phonics that teaches students unfamiliar words by analogy to known words. If a rime segment of an unfamiliar word is identical to that of a familiar word, blend the known rime—word family—with the new word’s beginning sound. For example, read “brick”, recognizing that “ick” is contained in the known word “kick”. *Examples: Alpha-Phonics; Ordinary Parent’s Guide to Teaching Reading.*

Continued...



- **Intensive Phonics:** teaches all letter combinations as rules and they are taught in a specific sequence. The child consciously learns each rule and practices reading words derived from the rules. *Examples: All About Reading; The Writing Road to Reading; Spell to Read and Write; Reading and Spelling Pure & Simple; Reading & Spelling Through Literature; Recipe for Reading.*
- **Basic Phonics:** teaches a few basic rules to get the student reading stories more quickly. These might or might not be taught in any specific order. Additional reading vocabulary is developed by exploring word families and adding phonemes as the student is learning to read. *Examples: First Start Reading; Easy for Me Reading; Foundational Phonics; From Phonics to Reading; Happy Phonics; Jolly Phonics; LLATL Blue & Red; McOmber Reading.*

### Phonics Curriculum:

Complete Programs:				
Programs	Approach	Grades	Notes	Components
Veritas Phonics	Intensive	K-1	Supports Classical philosophy	Multi-grade kit
Abeka Phonics	Intensive	PK-1	Multisensory; Fast-paced	Multi-grade kit
Horizons Phonics & Reading	Basic	K-3	Fast-paced	Grade-level kits
TouchPhonics	Basic	K-3	Kinesthetic/Teaches patterns not rules	Multi-grade kit
Primary Phonics	Basic	K-2	Workbooks and story books available for additional practice	Individual components
American Language Series	Basic	K	Teacher handbook and phonics songs, on USB Drive	Kit & individual components
CLE Learning to Read	Basic	1	Conservative Mennonite	Individual components
Pathway Reading	Basic	1	Amish	Individual components
Hooked On Phonics	Basic	PK-2	DVD component	Grade-level kits
All About Reading	Intensive	PK-2	Orton Gillingham; multisensory	Kits & individual components
Memoria Press: First Start Reading	Intensive	K/1	Online instruction and videos available separately	Set & books only
BJU Phonics & English	Basic	1	K level includes intro to phonics	Kit & individual components
LLATL Blue and Red	Basic	1, 2	CM/Ruth Beechick/Literature integration	Grade-level kits

Continued...



Curriculum continued...

### Complete Programs:

Programs	Approach	Grades	Notes	Components
Primary Arts of Language	Basic	K-1	Blended Sight/Sound. Sight Words prominent. IEW (Excellence in Writing) philosophy evident.	Package
Happy Cheetah	Basic	K-2	Teacher instruction in workbooks; incorporates sight words; research based; uses context reading and copywork.	Full LA program. Grade level kits & individual components.
Shiller Learning LA	Basic	K-1	Montessori approach	Kits
Sound Bytes Reading	Intensive	PK-1	Orton Gillingham; recommended for ELL & remedial	Manual
Words Their Way	Basic	K-3	Digital components	Package w/ 6 yr online access
Spell to Write & Read	Intensive	K-3	Spalding	W.I.S.E. Guide for Spelling
Preventing Academic Failure	Intensive	K-3	Orton Gillingham	Complete program offers Phonics, Reading, Handwriting, Spelling & Grammar.
From Phonics to Reading	Basic	K-3	User friendly teacher guide, colorful consumable student book	Individual components
Jolly Phonics	Basic	K-2	Complete spiral program; multi-sensory	Package or individual components
Reading & Spelling Pure & Simple	Intensive	K-AD	Works well with older struggling students or ELL students	Individual components
Easy for Me	Basic	K-3	Appeals to right-brain learners	Kits
McOmber Reading	Basic	PK-6	Readers focus on moral values; includes some writing & spelling	Package
Happy Phonics	Basic	PK-3	games included for review and retention	Package
Foundational Reading	Basic	K-2	Teacher & some student resources are digital	Student worktext, digital resources
Right Brained Phonics	Basic	1-8	Uses pictures & colors	Package
Reading & Spelling Through Literature	Intensive	K-4	Affordable; Orton Gillingham; includes spelling	Text; composition book (sold separately)
Recipe for Reading	Intensive	K-6	Orton Gillingham; great for struggling readers	Individual components

Continued...



Curriculum continued...

### Manual-Based Programs:

Programs	Approach	Grades	Notes	Components
AlphaPhonics	Basic	PK-2	Supplements available	Workbook & readers
Ordinary Parent's Guide to Teaching Reading	Intensive	K-1	Supports Classical Philosophy	Uses magnet letters/whiteboard, Instructor Manual, & student workbook
Phonics Pathways	Basic	K-2	Uses games for reinforcement	Companion "Reading Pathways" good for fluency
Writing Road to Reading	Intensive	PK-8	Romalda Spalding and Orton Gillingham Philosophy	
Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons	Basic	PK-3	Concludes at a Grade 2 reading level	One manual
Teach a Child to Read with Children's Books	Basic	K-3	Reading Recovery/"natural method"	Rules as necessary. Phonics/Sight Words
Three R's Series	Basic	K-3	Dr. Ruth Beechick/CM	Ideas for teaching reading, writing, and math

### Workbooks:

Programs	Approach	Grades	Notes	Components
Explode the Code	Basic	PK-2	TG needed for complete program	Teacher Guide; Beyond the Code good for reading comprehension
Adventures in Phonics	Basic	K,1,2,3	TG provides complete instruction and answers	Worktext, Teacher Guide, and flashcards
Plaid Phonics	Basic	K,1,2,3	Allows you to jump in at grade level because of built-in review	Workbook, Teacher Guide
Language Lessons for Little Ones	Basic	PK-2	Charlotte Mason Approach	Three volumes
Foundational Phonics	Intensive	PK-3	Multisensory	Consumable book
Daily Phonics	Basic	1-6	Some teacher instruction included	Separate student workbook



# Phonics

## The Path to Reading

### Decodable Readers (examples):

- Bob Books
- Primary Phonics
- Junior Learning

### Leveled Readers (examples):

Leveling is similar between publishers.

- I Can Read Books
- Boxcar Children Time to Read Level 2
- Step Into Reading
- DK Super Readers
- National Geographic Readers
- Scholastic Readers
- Penguin All Aboard Readers/Young Readers

### Non-Leveled High Interest Readers for young children:

- Dr. Seuss
- Curious George
- Richard Scarry
- Thornton Burgess
- Elephant & Piggie Series
- Mr. Putty & Tabby



### CHECKLIST: Is my child ready to read?

- Does your child know the alphabet?
- Can she/he recognize most of the letters (including both uppercase & lowercase letters?)
- Can your child recognize letters on everyday objects such as "S-T-O-P" on a stop sign?
- Can your child spell his or her own name?
- Pretends to read a book by holding it in the right position, turning pages right to left
- Able to retell his favorite story in his own words

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Methods to Develop A Child's Pre-Reading Skills:

- ❑ **READ yourself!** Let your child see you reading a physical book.
- ❑ **READ to your child.**
- ❑ **Look at a picture book** and ask your child about the picture. For example: Ask your child to tell you a story about the picture or what happens next.
- ❑ **Learn/Sing the Alphabet** along with teaching him to recognize the letters. Use magnetic letters on refrigerator or a cookie sheet.
- ❑ **Play the "I Spy"** game to practice beginning letter sounds.
- ❑ **Play Rhyming Games or make a Rhyming Basket**—Similar to above—get a large basket and ask your child to find things that rhyme to place in the basket. (For example: a hat, a bat, a rat—hopefully a plastic toy. Maybe the cat, and so on). You can also mix this up by creating a basket of items, and have 2 items rhyme—for example: fan/pan, hat/bat, fork/cork, etc.—have your child select the rhyming items from the basket.
- ❑ **Balance Beam Activities**—Make a balance beam out of a 1'x6' board (you can cover with pad/faux leather or even use yoga mats); once your child becomes comfortable, add height. Have them walk forwards/backwards/sideways.
- ❑ **Dribble a Ball.**
- ❑ **Alternate Left/Right activities, or...**
- ❑ **Incorporate Reading Games** into your home:
  - Reading Game
  - Kangaroo Cravings Game
  - Mrs. Wordsmith Phonics Blah Blah Blah Card Game
  - Early Reading Game
  - 6 Reading Games
  - Games for Reading, by Peggy Kaye



Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





### Struggling Readers:

Click Factor: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Learning Styles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Specific Issues: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Eye-tracking: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dyslexia: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Processing Challenges: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

