

What Comes After Alpha-Phonics?

With the completion of the final lesson, the learner is now ready to start reading any suitable outside literature. Some learners will require continued review of the alphabetic system in order to achieve reading and spelling mastery. Learners should read and write as much as possible in order to hone their academic skills.

English literature, vocabulary development, grammar, composition, are what come next after learning to read. Achieving high literacy requires learning everything that will make a student a master of his or her own language. Children, of course, teach themselves to speak their own language virtually from birth without the help of certified teachers. That's a remarkable learning achievement. But that self-taught vocabulary is limited and can only be expanded by reading great authors and their masterpieces.

As for classroom reading, it is recommended the teacher use a variety of good **poetry**, fiction and nonfiction texts that will stimulate the learner's appetite for **the printed word**. Libraries offer the young reader a tremendous variety of **books** on all subjects.

Children particularly enjoy reading such popular adventure and mystery series **as the Hardy Boys**, Nancy Drew and the Henty books. These books create a **voracious** reading appetite and set a healthy pattern for life-long pleasure **reading**.

At this point it is important to get learners into the habit of using the dictionary to look up the words they do not understand. That is the only way to increase one's reading and speaking vocabulary. Too many learners retard their own intellectual growth by never bothering to look up the words they don't understand. The student must learn that there is no shortcut to vocabulary development, without which true literacy is impossible to achieve.

Incidentally, never assume that a learner knows the meaning of a word merely because he can read it. When in doubt, ask the learner to define it.

Be on the lookout for good reading material for your learners. Once the learner realizes how much of real value can be found in the written word, reading will become an important part of that individual's life.

What Parents Say About *Alpha-Phonics*®

Alpha-Phonics is the most successful home-school reading program for one simple reason—it works! Parents have been talking about the simple, effective *Alpha-Phonics* system for years. Read what they have been saying:

"In six months, we taught our 5-year-old daughter Meghan to read.... Parents really can (and should) teach their children to read.... After teaching our own children to read using *Alpha-Phonics*, we are now better readers and spellers ourselves."

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Walter, Oregon

"Although I'm a nurse with many years of experience, I still doubted my ability to teach. But no more! We started on your book *Alpha-Phonics*, and it is so great to see [my son] Joey progressing so rapidly and asking to do more!"

Rebekah Hutzler-Malatt, W. Virginia

"I was so pleased with the ease of instruction [of *Alpha-Phonics*], the clarity of the book and the response of my son that I felt I should write you and commend you on the results obtained by the *Alpha-Phonics* method. By the time John and I had finished *Alpha-Phonics*, over a period of eight months, John could read and pronounce most any word."

V.L. Goltry, M.D., Idaho

"They say that a satisfied customer is the best advertising. I've certainly sold lots of people on *Alpha-Phonics*. It was so simple and thorough—much better than phonics programs costing much more."

Linda Steigerwald, Virginia

"I had tried two other phonics systems, but they didn't work.... We started using *Alpha-Phonics* last month. It's going great. I really love it, and my son is excited about learning from it."

Patti Clay, Georgia

"I must admit that when I first looked at the teacher's instructions [to *Alpha-Phonics*], I was a little skeptical. There were no frills, and it looked too simple.... [However,] in one month we had covered the whole book. And my son went from reading signs to reading books!"

Mrs. Teresa A. Ambra, Massachusetts

"I am convinced [*Alpha-Phonics*] is the best reading program available to parents who want to teach their children to read."

Ellyn Davis, Tennessee

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