

How Reading Kingdom teaches Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency & Comprehension

Phonemic Awareness & Phonics

Reading Kingdom teaches phonemic awareness and phonics throughout.

There is a specific format in the program known as “Savvy Sounds” that precedes the teaching of each word in the program. It teaches the sounds that letters and words make while teaching phonemic awareness (recognizing that words are made up of a variety of sound units) and phonics (sound-spelling relationships).

Moreover, Reading Kingdom uses two techniques not found in any other program that address some of the most complicated aspects of phonics instruction. These are:

- **Bit Blends Technique.** This is a groundbreaking approach to teaching sound blending, typically one of the hardest phonics-based skills that children must acquire.
- **Orthographic Phonemics.** This is an ingenious method of using writing to teach students the differences between the many homophones (to, two & too), homonyms (dog’s bark vs. tree bark) and heteronyms (ship’s bow, vs. archery bow) that make English spelling and pronunciation so confusing.

Vocabulary, Fluency & Comprehension

Reading Kingdom teaches approximately 700 words and includes 30 books divided into 5 levels (achieving a Lexile level of 750L by Book 30). Here is a brief description of the way the 5 levels are structured:

- Level 1: Characters such as kids and animals are central to any story. This first level presents the simple, basic phrases and sentences needed to discuss these key “residents” of the story world. (Lexile level = 230L)
- Level 2: After being introduced, in Level 1, to characters (such as kids and animals) and key properties of those characters, Level 2 increases the complexity of the writing to introduce longer sentences, more sentences on a page and some unique features of text such as quotations and the punctuation they require. This level also offers pages of text unaccompanied by pictures--a key component of effective reading. (Lexile level = 350L)
- Level 3: In Level 3, the books systematically introduce the past tense - a form that is critical to effective retelling of events. In addition, the stories are longer and extend over two books. Comprehension activities are introduced aimed at teaching children the vital skill of knowing how to summarize stories. (Lexile level = 480L)
- Level 4: Non-story books such as books on science are critical to reading success. At this level, children are introduced to science-related texts such as the habits of animals and the manned space flight to the moon. Presentation of this material naturally entails more complex vocabulary and more sophisticated sentences. (Lexile level = 620L)
- Level 5: At this level, the books offer richer, fantasy-based stories that contain characters who experience complex thoughts, emotions and experiences. This sets the stage for the children to independently and successfully read the wide array of appealing books that are aimed not at teaching reading, but at enjoying reading. (Lexile level = 750L)

In the teaching of vocabulary, fluency and comprehension, Reading Kingdom employs innovative techniques not found in any other system. These include:

- **High frequency Syntax System.** This method leverages the power of the 120 most common words in English to teach students the structure of our language. These 120 words occupy 60% of every page of text in English from first grade through graduate school. Even more importantly, these 120 words form the structure of our language. For instance, they are used to identify nouns, verbs, singular and plural, and they also form questions, negate, indicate space and establish tense. So when students learn these 120 words not only can they decode 60% of every page of text they will ever read, but they then understand the relationships among all the other words. No other program teaches these words the way Reading Kingdom does, and this is an incredibly powerful and proven technique that creates students who read with fluency and comprehension.
- **Intensive Word Teaching Technique.** Before students are given a book, they are taught the 1) spelling, 2) pronunciation, 3) meaning and 4) usage in context of all the words in the book. This ensures they can easily decode and understand what they're reading.
- **Comprehension Modeling Method.** Reading Kingdom uses modeling, a very powerful teaching method, to help students to construct main idea summaries of what they are reading. This is a vast improvement over the traditional "passage with questionnaire" approach to comprehension instruction found in other programs.

A more in-depth description of the Reading Kingdom curriculum and how it works can be found here: <http://goo.gl/HmQPvh>