

The Reading Program - What It Is and Why It Works for Everyone Books Station

The Books Station starts with a total of sixty-six twenty-page books, each about six inches in size. There are thirteen two-sound books, twenty three-sound books and thirty-three transition books. Where the phrase-level books are will be explained shortly.

Two-Sound Books



The picture above shows four two-sound book pages, two from a triangle level book and two from a circle level book.

All sixty-six books use the Two and Three-Sound Flip Book model. Each word or phrase is on its own page. The picture the word or phrase describes is on the following page. Ten words or phrases per book and ten matching pictures. The child reads the word or phrase and anticipates its picture on the next page.

Putting the words on one page and the pictures on the following page lets the child feel the power of reading. The child's reading of the word or phrase lets that child know what to expect on the next page. The act of reading has given the child this power.

Three-Sound and Phrase Books



The picture above shows four three-sound book pages, two from the yellow triangle level book and two from the red triangle level book.

The books at the three-sound level each have the standard happy-face triangle, circle, square, rectangle and star codings. However, past the first two triangle-level books, all the books are at the phrase level, with each picture now described with two-words instead of one.

The Picture Packets and Worksheets Stations assessed the students' ability to read by requiring them to either match sound-words or phrases to Picture Packet pictures or choose between two pictures on a worksheet. At the Picture Packets Station children work together. At the Worksheets Station children either work together or work alone and then have a fellow student check their efforts.

At the Books Station, children read each book by themselves. There is no need to turn to another child to see if a word or phrase has been read correctly. The answer is on the very next page. Children read the word or phrase, think what the word or phrase might mean and then turn the page for an immediate answer.

Because the answer is always just a page away, once any child knows all 44 sounds and can read two-sound words easily, the books are used to give every child an opportunity to start reading phrases.

Transition Books





The picture above shows eight transition book pages, four from the fifth heart-level book and four from the sixth heart-level book. The Transition Books contain longer phrases. They also contain the letter spellings for each word.

We do not know exactly how learning takes place. We do know how to present learning opportunities, but we do not know what exactly causes a child's mind to leap from not knowing to knowing.

Allowing ALL children to read books that contain both sound-words and letter spellings, regardless of our own assumptions about individual student readiness for each level, provides an opportunity for every child's mind to leap from not knowing to knowing, without our prejudging the likelihood of its happening.

More Books

The Books Station's sixty-six books are just the beginning. As soon as all 44 sounds have been introduced, all students, regardless of their reading level, begin stamping out and drawing pictures for their own words at the Stamping and Creative Writing Station.

The words and their illustrations are turned into student-authored books that will be added to the Books Station collection. The student-authored books start at the stamping level and continue all the way through the letters-only level.

The teacher also adds his or her own books to the Books Station. The 2,048 kits distributed from 1984 through 1993 contained a tiny set of stamps that teachers used to add the sounds to any of their own library of children's books. The 44 sound-pictures were subsequently made into a computer font downloadable from the Center's website.

As a font, the sound-pictures can be made available in any size the teacher might elect to use.



A keyboard template indicating the location of each sound-picture is, of course, also downloadable from the Center's website.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	-	=	
Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	[]	
A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	;	/	Note: / not *	
Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	,	.		\		

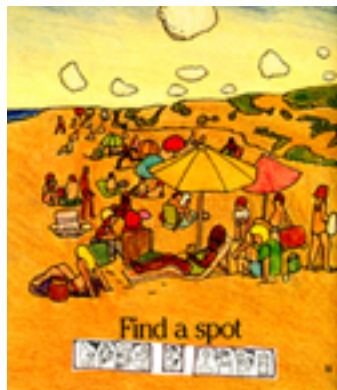
Please note: "Man with mustache" key is the forward slash (/) and not the apostrophe ('')

The Stamping, Transition and Vowels-Only books are added to the Books Station as the more advanced students are ready to read at that level. However, any student can read or attempt to read any book at the Station regardless of that individual student's supposed readiness for a particular level.

A faster and slower student may decide to read a particular book together. A slower student may decide to read a book a bit too difficult for him or her at that point and simply ask any other child at the Station for help with some words. Children do not need to ask the teacher for help with their reading. Help is already everywhere around them.

Sample Pages From Teacher-Made Books

Below are samples of pages that teachers added sounds to before the computer font existed that now makes the process of preparing books for the Book Station so much easier.



Father said, "Oh, oh!"
 Mother said, "Oh, my!"
 Baby said, "Oh, look!
 I see something."

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Where is
 the ball now?

