

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can use this resource?

Teachers, parents, homeschooling families, speech therapists, music therapists, reading specialists, and anyone interested in helping someone learn to read!

Where do I start?

The best place to start is with an assessment. This can be done informally through reading together, exploring the text, and playing with some of the words. Additionally, formally assessing a child's skill level is important. Multiple assessment tools are summarized in the following pages. The Phonological Awareness Developmental Continuum (which develops from left to right and bottom to top simultaneously) can also be used to get you started.

How many skills can we work on at the same time?

There persists some debate about how many skills to target simultaneously. The general consensus is that skills do not develop in a lock-step fashion. The best answer I can give you based on available research is that there isn't a "one-size-fits-all" approach. The skills clearly develop in a general progression but there is a lot of overlap and bidirectionality. The development of one skill often helps another skill develop. Mastery in one area is not required before moving onto the next. If a child gets stuck on one area, maybe rhyming, I don't recommend staying there before moving forward. Move onto another area but keep revisiting the challenging skill, utilizing a variety of approaches. The answer to this question also depends on whether you are working in an individual or group setting. Working in a group setting will require you to target several skills and levels at the same time.