

Reading Resources

Reading teachers tend to prefer either teaching phonics or whole language. Rather than continue with one path with a child when it may not be working, consider using both approaches. The purpose of reading instruction is to allow a child to share the joy found in the printed word, so finding ways for quick success is critical; the successful reader tends to read more, leading to more success.

For a phonics approach, look at Reading Horizons Intensive Phonics materials. They also have good dyslexia materials. When you purchase materials from their website, you receive free on-line training. [readinghorizons.com]

For a fun, interactive way to engage your young child with words, starfall is great. [starfall.com]

The **best resource** is an infinitely patient adult who will read with a child several times a day, for short periods. It is important that the adult not read to the child, and not correct every mistake, but to let the child read. If you position the child on your lap or just in front of you, when you see the child struggling with an unfamiliar word, whisper in the tiniest voice the beginning of the word right into the child's ear. The child believes she or he figured a hard word out all alone!

Here are some of my favorite reading websites:

Starfall (early reading)
<http://www.starfall.com/>

Get Ready to Read
http://www.getreadytoread.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=95&Itemid=104

Reading Rockets
<http://www.readingrockets.org/teaching/reading101>

Starfall Scope and Sequence Short Vowels
<http://www.starfall.com/n/N-info/scope.htm?n=educators>

Kids Corner (general elementary)
<http://www.kidscorner.org/>

Here are some great magazines to curl up with at home:

Kids Discover Magazine—Curriculum Supplements in Social Studies and Science
<http://www.kidsdiscover.com/>

Highlights Magazine
<http://www.highlights.com/>

Here are some curriculum resources:

Reading Horizons—Phonics based, but multisensory

<http://athome.readinghorizons.com/resources/reading-programs.aspx>

Organized by grade level with many approaches and many publishers

<http://www.learningthings.com/articles/>

A thoughtful article with links to many specific curricula

<http://www.successful-homeschooling.com/homeschool-reading-curriculum.html>