## Student's

# First Reading Book 

Teach Your Child To Read With Fun \& Easy Lessons!


5-MINUTE LESSONS

SIGNATURE PAGE DESIGN



NO COLOR-AVOIDS DISTRACTION

## Student's

## First Reading Book

Fun, Easy, Inexpensive, and Systematic!
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Authors' biographies: Nick has a BSME from the University of Notre Dame. He's a CPA, with a second Bachelor's degree in Finance/Accounting - from the University of New Mexico. Nick became a nationally published author back in 2001, with "The New Face of the IRS" published in the January 2001 issue of Strategic Finance magazine.
Rita D. Newman has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, taught Kindergarten for a few years, and directed a very successful preschool for 23 years.

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One month into Kindergarten, Nick's daughter [Rita's granddaughter] came to him and said, "I want to learn to read!" After a couple of purchases, he was surprised how little one book had in it, and how difficult another was making it. So, he asked a friend of his [a former Pre-School Director] - whose son was reading on a 2nd Grade level - the year before in his daughter's preschool class, how she taught her son to read. She said, "With 3-letter words!" Nick and his daughter also had a letter-sound tape in the car, at that time. Well, by the powers that be, it dawned on him that if his daughter knew three letter-sounds, she'd likely be able to read a three letter word. So, he started putting pages together, and it worked like a charm. "My Child's First Reading Book" was born and, it really was my child's first reading book! -N.J. DeCandia, Author \& Founder, Den Publishing Company.

Dedication: this book is dedicated to Nick's daughter (Rita's granddaughter), with acknowledgment and thanks to the following early childhood education professionals: Swarupa Watlington, Wendy George, Cindy Rossner, Dale Dickey \& Sue Lamier.
Disclaimer: this book is not a substitute for adult supervision, nor do we guarantee results.

Den's Evolution of Content and Titles: as mentioned above, the original title was "My Child's First Reading Book" (MCFRB) - because it really was my child's first reading book. However, my mom - contributing author Rita - saw that it worked for more than just her granddaughter, when she started selling it at her preschool. So, she suggested a title change. That's when "First Reading Book" (FRB) aka "Student's First Reading Book" took hold. After some time, we realized we could give students more help on the reading pages, by hyphenating the 3 -letter words in addition to the whole word. That's when "The Phonics Reading Book" (TPRB) was born. Note: we still maintain MCFRB and FRB as "whole language" reading pages. Finally, when Nick started working with his church's pre-Kindergarten program, he decided to develop instruction to include the alphabet, which is a pre-requisite of MCFRB, FRB \& TPRB. Hence, "The Alphabet Book" (TAB) was born! Note: TAB includes "pre-phonics" lessons (aka: phonemic or sound awareness lessons).

Den Publishing Company
www.DenPublishing.com
Orlando, Florida

## "Quick Start" Instructions

1) Alphabet Knowledge - Does your student know the alphabet? If not $\Rightarrow$ flash cards, first (Appendix A or The Alphabet Book).
2) Sit With 'Em - ~5 minutes a day, 4 days per week. Just a little of your time can make a world of progress!
3) Don't Skip Around - The lessons are short, but are in a very specific order.
4) Reading Pages (bat, cat..) - Point \& demonstrate individual \& combined sounds (b-a-t; bat). Have student do the same.
5) Review Pages - Don't skip these. With rhyming and page design, this is where putting those sounds together really starts to jell!
6) Review - start each new day with a brief review, and if you feel they're up to it, cover the picture on a Reading page(s).
7) Keep It Fun - "high fives" for progress made, and use coloring pages to balance learning with fun!
Notes: (1) ample review is going to be needed, as learning to read is a kin to us adults learning a new language; and getting over the newness of each letter having a sound \& how to put those sounds together - may not happen the very first time through Chapter 1. Remember: any progress is our friend. Discouragement is the enemy; (2) don't be alarmed if your child doesn't know one or more of the words / pictures.

This will be part of the learning experience, as well!
"The National Reading Panel's analysis made it clear that the best approach to reading instruction is one that incorporates:
*Explicit instruction in phonemic [sound] awareness
*Systematic phonics instruction..".
National Reading Panel. National Institutes of Health. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. http://www.nichd.nih.gov/research/supported/Pages/nrp.aspx.
The National Reading Panel was tasked by Congress in 1997 to determine how children learn best to read. The panel reviewed thousands upon thousands of studies (all available research on teaching reading). The spent over two years analyzing - including holding open panel discussions.

## Learning To Read $=2$ Steps

1) Learning The Letter Sounds
2) Putting Those Sounds Together

Section 1 - Short Vowel Book Skills Teaches All the Letter Sounds (Except/q/) By The End Of Section 1, They Have the Tools to Read Short-Vowel Books.

Section 2 Teaches Them Long Vowels, Blends \& Segmenting of Big Words By The End Of Section 2, They Have the Tools to Read Any Beginning Book!

## Signature Page Design

## White on the outskirts helps focus attention - to the center of the page and the task at hand.



> Grayscale keeps interest level high, and provides coloring page.


Smaller prompt for the parent.

Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Apple starts with /a/ and sounds like "ah", "apple - a - ah." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!

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Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Apple starts with /a/ and sounds like "ah", "apple - a - ah." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!

## 9




Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Balloon starts with /b/ and sounds like "buh", "balloon - b - buh." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!

景噻


Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Table starts with /t/ and sounds like "tih", "table - $t$ - tih." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!
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⓪ @ \}


Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Clock starts with /c/ and sounds like "kuh", "clock - c - kuh." Have your child repeat it - pointing.
Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!


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Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "House starts with /h/ and sounds like "huh", "house - h - huh." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!



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Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Scissors starts with /s/ and sounds like "sss", "scissors - s-sss." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!



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Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Monkey starts with $/ \mathrm{m} /$ and sounds like " mm ", "monkey - $m$ - mm." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!
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Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Elephant starts with /e/ and sounds like "eh", "elephant - e - eh." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!

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& \text { C) }
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Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Penguin starts with /p/ and sounds like "puh", "penguin - p - puh." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!

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& P Q \\
& 8
\end{aligned}
$$



Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Neck starts with /n/ and sounds like "nn", "neck - n - nn." Have your child repeat it - pointing.
Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!
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Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Inch starts with /i/ and sounds like "ih", "inch - i - ih." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!
$T i$
E

$i 0$


## (o) <br> $\circ$ $0 \pi$






Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Window starts with /w/ and sounds like "wuh",
"window - w - wuh." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!

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$W i 0$



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## W

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$\omega i \omega$
B 10


Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Octopus starts with /o/ and sounds like "ah", "octopus - 0 - ah." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!


(0) 0



## 00 <br> (0) <br> 00





h o p



W O $\rho$





## 0 n

## mom <br> m <br> 

## (0) $\bigcirc$




Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say,
"Umbrella starts with /u/ and sounds like "uh", "umbrella - u-uh." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!

U ๗ 3



© W O




## 0 O




Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Goat starts with /g/ and sounds like "guh", "goat - g-guh." Have your child repeat it - pointing.
Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!






## U P

## $C U P$



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Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "X-ray starts with /x/ and sounds like "eks", "x-ray - $x$ - eks." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!



## (0) B



## sit on mat



## Si̊\} On m@れ




## pin hat on mom



## poin h@\& on mom







Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Duck starts with /d/ and sounds like "duh", "duck - d-duh." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!



## 0




Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say,
"Feather starts with /f/ and sounds like "eff",
"feather - $f$ - eff." Have your child repeat it - pointing.
Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!





## $S$ <br>  <br> 0




Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Vacuum starts with /v/ and sounds like "vuh", "vacuum - v - vuh." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!



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Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Jogger starts with / $/$ / and sounds like "juh", "jogger - j - juh." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!





Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Kite starts with /k/ and sounds like "kuh", "kite - $\boldsymbol{k}$ - kuh." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!
$\mathbb{K}$潒








Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Rocket starts with /r/ and sounds like "err", "rocket - r - err." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!

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Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Ladder starts with /L/ and sounds like "III", "ladder - I - III." Have your child repeat it - pointing.
Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!

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## 1000




Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Yoyo starts with /y/ and sounds like "yuh", "yoyo - y - yuh." Have your child repeat it - pointing. Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!


## V






M © S



Parent prompt (suggested) - point and say, "Zebra starts with /z/ and sounds like "zuh", "zebra - z-zuh." Have your child repeat it - pointing.
Head for the coloring page, for both fun and to reinforce the lesson!
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4


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& \text { kit } \\
& \text { run } \\
& \text { lid } \\
& \text { yes } \\
& \text { zip }
\end{aligned}
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$2 i p$

## STOP

## CONGRATULATIONS!

## You have just reached the end of Section 1 - Short Vowel Book Skills.

## The Next Step

We suggest a short break, followed by a week or two of reading just short-vowel books. Then consider alternating days between short-vowel books and Section 2 - Long Vowels, Blends, \& Segmenting of Big Words. Or you may also want to pick-up Section 2 skills "on the fly", as the need arises.

## Caution!

Do be particular, at this juncture, about finding books with just short-vowel words. And don't just hand them over. Sit with them, still. The very last thing you want, at this point, is for your student to get discouraged. Note: there are a couple of series out there - that are pretty good about having just short-vowel words, including the "Now I'm Reading" Series, Level One, and "Bob Books" Sets 1 \& 2. Both are available at Amazon. You may, also, want to check your local public library for these!

# Section 2 -Long-Vowels, Blends, <br> <br> \& Segmenting 

 <br> <br> \& Segmenting}

Now that your student can read short-vowel books, it's time to give them the tools to read any beginning book, including:

1) To know long-vowels.
2) To know blends.
3) To know some sight words \& punctuation.
4) To be able to break down bigger words.

How to Use: teach your student to use their thumb to cover part of the word, while sounding out the other part!

# long-a 

Say, "The ' $e$ ' is silent and makes the ' $a$ ' say its name."
bake


rake


gate


# ○○ß 



C © ß B


0 © ß O

(9) © $\}$ (e) min

## long-i

Say, "The ' $e$ ' is silent and makes the ' $i$ ' say its name."
bike

mike


bike aT
hike要罗 mike Bise H

## long-o

Say, "The ' $e$ ' is silent and makes the ' 0 ' say its name."



## long-u

Say, "The ' $e$ ' is silent and makes the ' $u$ ' say its name."
CUte



## fume


$\mathbb{C} \mathbb{O}\}($


M以le

@以 M C

## "s†"

## Say, "s - t sounds like 'st'."


S § @

S\& ©




## " $n$ d"

Say, " $n$ - d sounds like ' $n d$ '."hand

wind




## "wh"

Say, "Sometimes the ' $h$ ' is silent - after a ' $w$ '."



## "Ck"

Say, "c - $k$ sounds like 'kk'."


NOCK为 SOCK duck bock


## "II"

Say, "the second 'I' is silent."

 B © I I


## "sh"

Say, "s - h sounds like 'sh'."


shio

$\mathfrak{S} \mathfrak{O} 0$

Sh © O


## ${ }^{11}$ Ch"

Say, "c - h sounds like 'ch'."

chion $\mathfrak{C}$ § @ $\mathbb{C}$ © $\bigotimes_{\infty}$资整 chick

## " 1 h"

Say, " $t$ - h sounds like 'th'."



Hోion Hhink \& かోOゃn

## " n g"

Say, " $n-g$ sounds like '-ng'."







O O O O O


## "oa"

Say, "The ' $a$ ' is silent and makes the ' 0 ' say its name."



## "ee"

"The second ' $e$ ' is silent and makes the first say its
be ec xes nat


## feed <br> 



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\begin{aligned}
& \text { B (e) (e) xise } \\
& \text { S P e }
\end{aligned}
$$

## "ea"

"The ' $a$ ' is silent and makes the ' $e$ ' say its name."

$$
\mathbf{e} @ \mathbf{r}
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\mathbf{h e} \oplus \mathbf{r})) \text { ) }
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## fear



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## " $00{ }^{11}$

Say, "0-o sounds like 'oo'."

© (0) (o)

$\cdots$ (o) (o)


## "Oy"

Say, "o - y sounds like 'oi'."

## † 0 y




## "OW"

Say, "o - w sounds like 'ah-w'."



## "OU"

Say, "o-u sounds like 'ah-w'."


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { M O u f h se } \\
& \text { 6 © U S © }
\end{aligned}
$$

M O M S O


## "aw"

Say, " $a$ - w sounds like 'au'."



## "ar"

Say, "a-r sounds like 'ar'."



## "er"

Say, "e - r sounds like 'er'."

## her



## over



## river




かiヤer

## "or"

Say, "o - r sounds like 'or'."

© (0) O $\downarrow$

$\beta(0) 0$


## "ew"

Say, "e - w sounds like 'ew'."



## "ay"

Say, "the ' $y$ ' is silent and makes the ' $a$ ' say its name."

play




$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { ic C } \\
& \text { BOC O } \\
& \text { © (0) C O }
\end{aligned}
$$

## " $9 \mathbf{U}^{11}$

## Say, " $q-u$ sounds like 'kw'."




@ M O C B Mis
© い C e T

@ W OCS

# Sight Words 

Say, "Some words don't follow all the rules."

## [iz]


$i s$

かో (2)

## Sight Words

Say, "Some words don't follow all the rules."


$$
[u h, v]
$$


[ý]


## Sight Words

Say, "Some words don't follow all the rules."

\& 0
$m 0$

## Sight Words

Say, "Some words don't follow all the rules."


$$
\text { © } 0 \times \text { O }
$$



## Sight Words

Say, "Some words don't follow all the rules."

does [duz]

Sh
does

## puncuation

Adult says, "a period is for the end of a sentence."

$$
1
$$

Adult says, "a comma is used between items listed one, two."

## ?

Adult says, "a question mark is for questions example: do you understand?"

## $!$

Adult says, "an exclamation point is for emphasis!"

## Segmenting

Say, "Let's practice breaking up big words." Have your student cover part of it - with some fingers!

## $r a b-b i t$ rabbit



$$
\uparrow \text { © b b b }
$$



## Segmenting

Say, "Let's practice breaking up big words." Have your student cover part of it - with some fingers!


## Bio ( ) R

## Big er



## Segmenting

Say, "Let's practice breaking up big words." Have your student cover part of it - with some fingers!

# ze-bra <br> <br> zebra 

 <br> <br> zebra}



## Segmenting

Say, "Let's practice breaking up big words." Have your student cover part of it - with some fingers!

# sn-ake 

## snake



# SMo OK C 

SNok e


## Segmenting

Say, "Let's practice breaking up big words." Have your student cover part of it - with some fingers!

# sh-ark 

shark


# Shoork 

## shork



## Segmenting

Say, "Let's practice breaking up big words." Have your student cover part of it - with some fingers!

## sk-Unk <br> 



Skownk
skunk

## Segmenting

Say, "Let's practice breaking up big words." Have your student cover part of it - with some fingers!

# dra-gon <br> dragon 



$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { © } 0 \text { © O O O } \\
& \text { © } 10000
\end{aligned}
$$



I see a tiger!

# Appendix A: Alphabet Flash Cards 

## Notes

(1) You have express permission to photocopy these flash cards - on to card stock, or heavy duty construction paper. You may also want to laminate them, hole punch them and put them on a ring or two.
(2) The graphic art is left in gray scale by design. We have found that color distracts from the process.



I




## U <br>  <br> V <br> V <br>  <br> w <br> 



## Y

## y



## Appendix B: Any Trouble Remembering Letter Sounds?

If they need a little extra help remembering a letter-sound, here is a list of the letters and possible devices to help them remember. So, when they see the letter, they should think of the picture and associate the first sound. After a couple of times reminding them of the picture-memory device, they should start to begin to remember the letter-sound independently.

## Letter Picture Device


$\mathrm{An} / \mathrm{a} /$ is shaped like an apple.

See how her body, the string and balloon form the shape of $\mathrm{a} / \mathrm{b} /$.

C

d


The duck is shaped like a/d/.

The elephant's trunk is shaped like an /e/ and its legs like an $/ \mathrm{E} /$.
g


A clock is round like a /c/.
e



The goat's horns are shaped like a/g/ or /G/.


The house \& chimney are shaped like an $/ \mathrm{h} /$.

## Appendix B (continued)



## Appendix B (continued)

Letter Picture Device

S

u


X


Z


Device
The scissors' handles look like an /s/.

The table is shaped like a/t/.

The umbrella handle is shaped like a/u/.

The handle of the vacuum and the dust cloud form a/v/.

The drapes of the window form an upsidedown /w/.

His hip bone looks like an /x/.

Think of a/y/ like throwing a yo-yo up and down.

The zebra's head \& neck are shaped like a /z/.

Note: the ' $q$ ' is not here, because it is not in Section 1 - Letter Sounds. You can find the "qu" combination in Section 2 - Blends.

## Appendix C - List of All English Language Sounds (aka: phonemes)

| Consonant Phonemes | Vowel Phonemes |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1-/b/ | 24-/a/ ......... [short-a] |
| 2-/k/ | 25-/e/ ......... [short-e] |
| 3-/d/ | 26-/i/ .......... [short-i] |
| 4-/f/ | 27 -/o/ ......... [short-o] |
| 5-/g/ | 28-/u/ ......... [short-u ] |
| 6-/h/ | 29-/a/ ......... [long-a] |
| 7-/j/ | 30-/e/ ......... [long-e] |
| 8-I/ | 31-/i/ ........... [long-i] |
| 9-/m/ | 32-/o/ ......... [long-o] |
| 10-/n/ | 33 - /u/ ......... [long-u] |
| 11-/p/* | 34-/00/....... [ book, look, hook]*** |
| 12-/r/ | 35 -/oi//oy/.. [oil, soil, boil, toy, boy] |
| 13-/s/ | 36 -/ou//ow/. [house, mouse, cow] |
| 14-/t/ | 37 -/au//aw/. [taught, caught, saw, law] |
| $15-/ v /$ l |  |
| 16-/w/ | Vowel-Consonant Blended Phonemes |
| 17-/y/* | 38-/ar/......... [car, cart, bark, dark] |
| 18-/z/ | 39 - /er/......... [her, sir, fur, sister] |
|  | 40-/or/......... [torn, born, warn, door] |
| Consonant-Blend Phonemes | 41-/ew/........ [chew, stew] |
| 19-/ch/ |  |
| 20-/sh/ |  |
| 21-/th/ |  |
| 22-/ng/....... [ring, sing] |  |
| 23-/zh/** |  |
| Notes: |  |
| * Noticeably missing from the consonant phoneme list(s) are $/ q /$ and $/ x /$. That is because they do not have their own sour per say, but are made up of the other sounds. For instance, $/ x /$ is /eks/, and $/ q /$ is $/ \mathrm{kw} /$ (as in "queen" and "quack"). <br> ** $/ \mathrm{zh} /$ is a more subtle sound found in "measure" and "treasure". <br> *** Some consider the /oo/ sound in "moon" and "spoon" to be a separate sound, when compared to "book" and "look". |  |
|  |  |
| Human Development (NICHD): https://www.nichd.nih.gov/research/supported/Pages/nrp.aspx/. Note: phoneme lists may vary slightly from 41 to 44 phonemes, depending on who you ask. |  |

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## Den's Reading Program - Local \& Correspondence Testimonials

"You should publish it!"
-K.K., Parent of a Kindergartner
"It's great!"
-C.C., Parent of a Kindergartner
"Hannah already can't put it down!" -M.B., Parent of a Kindergartner
"Andrew is having a ball! He takes it to bed with him."
-J.H., Grandparent of a Four-Year Old
"That book is so very cute."
-S.W., Parent of a Kindergartner
"Thank you for such a great resource!"
-K.B., Kindergarten Teacher
"The pictures are gorgeous. This is great..!
-W.G., Certified Reading Specialist
"He loves it! He just picked it up. He loves it."
-J.B., Mother of a 4 \& $1 / 2$ Year Old
"The program utilizes $80 \%$ or more of current research-based practices.
The sequence of the materials was good. The book would have a specific purpose
for beginning kindergarten. This is well done..."
-Utah State Textbook Adoption Committee
"It is a great book and Nyah already loves reading out of it..."
-J.V., Parent of a Preschooler
"I've looked it over (and my first thought was how well put together the book is)..."
-P.W., Aunt of a Preschooler
"I think it's a great start for any pre-school, kindergarten or first-grade child..." -M.H., Reading Teacher for over 25 Years
-more-

The Alphabet Book
www.TheAlphabetBook.com*

Pre-Phonics For Preschoolers www.Pre-PhonicsForPreschoolers.com*

The Phonics Reading Book www.PhonicsReadingBook.com

My Child's First Reading Book www.MyChildsFirstReadingBook.com

First Reading Book
www.FirstReadingBook.com

Alphabet to Phonics
www. AlphabetToPhonics.com

