

ABC Is As Easy As 123: Learning to Read Through Phonics

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From Adam to Hammurabi to Aristotle, some form of reading and writing has been passed from generation to generation. The last five decades of research surrounding the science of reading demonstrates that explicit, teacher-led and multisensory phonics instruction best complements brain function and supports all types of learners. Phonics is the process of matching spoken sounds to letters or groups of letters. Phonics programs, such as Spalding and Orton-Gillingham, yield the best results, while also enabling students to become lifelong learners, because they are teacher-led and multisensory. These programs work for all types of students, leveling the playing field for all the various types of learning styles. Dyslexic brains process information differently, struggling to make connections that most students make as they learn to read. For dyslexic students, phonics must be broken down into smaller, more intentional lessons. Phonics is the most effective way to teach dyslexic students, to gain the knowledge and skills to become successful, avid readers and lifelong learners. Just as there is a grammar (knowing the letters and sounds), the logic (decoding new words), and rhetoric (putting it all together), stages of education, so also are these stages apparent in learning to read. A phonics-based classroom yields the most successful students in reading, equipping both those who are considered typical and those with learning disabilities like dyslexia.