



New! Read Naturally's Signs for Sounds Teaches Phonics, High-Frequency Words Through Spelling

Read Naturally is pleased to announce that it has acquired Signs for Sounds™ from Bechthold Publications. Signs for Sounds is a program that effectively teaches phonics through spelling.

Read Naturally's Signs for Sounds is an expanded version of the original program, which was created over 30 years ago by Carolyn Bechthold, a reading specialist, and her husband, a psychologist.

Signs for Sounds has been used by students and teachers in thousands of classrooms across the country to teach spelling and reading using a systematic, easy-to-use format.

Teachers can present the lessons in this program to individual students or to groups of students who have similar needs in phonics and spelling skills instruction.

Signs for Sounds can be implemented as a beginning spelling program in primary grades. It is also an excellent intervention for older students who may benefit from continuing phonics instruction through spelling.

Features Added by Read Naturally

Read Naturally has expanded the original program with these added features:

- High-frequency words with both regular and irregular spelling patterns are systematically presented.
- Each lesson has a selection of dictation sentences that include words from the lesson and high-frequency words.
- Teacher management tools are provided to help teachers track students' results.



"After using your Signs for Sounds phonics program in the classroom, I am delighted with the results. The kids like it, and their spelling skills have improved tremendously!"

– R.S., Auberry, Calif.

How It Works

- 1 The teacher introduces new letter sounds by showing students a few new letters and pronouncing their sounds.
- 2 The teacher dictates a word from the list in the lesson, emphasizing each sound, and the students circle each of the letters needed to make the word from those available on their lesson forms.
- 3 Students then write out the full word using the letters they circled.

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Read Naturally Called “Gold Standard” in Helping Struggling Readers

By Tom Ihnot, Chief Executive Officer of Read Naturally

Dr. Kevin Feldman, Director of Reading for the Sonoma County Office of Education, has called Read Naturally “the gold standard” in helping educators transform developing and struggling readers into fluent readers. The following points illustrate our ongoing success:

- The pioneering combination of three research-proven strategies (teacher modeling, repeated reading, and progress monitoring) gives teachers confidence in the underlying research base of Read Naturally.
- The Florida Center for Reading Research and the University of Oregon both gave Read Naturally their highest ratings.
- Nine control group studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of Read Naturally.
- Over 500 teacher case studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of Read Naturally.
- Over 100,000 teachers use Read Naturally.
- Read Naturally has received awards from Learning Magazine, Association of Educational Publishers, and National Urban Education.
- Read Naturally has been adopted by thousands of school districts throughout the United States.
- Read Naturally is used in all 50 states, Canada, and several other countries.

Read Naturally prides itself on continually enhancing and refining its strategy. A critical reason for our success is the feedback and research we receive from teachers who use Read Naturally.



Tom Ihnot



Train the Trainer Set for Oct. 7-9 in Minneapolis Area

Does your district have an in-house Read Naturally specialist? You can learn to train teachers in your district to implement Read Naturally’s reading programs and assessment tools at this year’s Train the Trainer.

This year, the Train the Trainer workshop will be held Oct. 7-9, 2010 at the Hilton Minneapolis South/Bloomington near the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport.

You will be trained by premier Read Naturally instructors: Candyce Ihnot, developer of the Read Naturally strategy,



Candyce Ihnot

Read Naturally Curriculum Director Karen Hunter, Jan Hasbrouck, Ph.D., Carol Kane, Marie Bodden, and Sarah Jane Schonour.

You’ll gain a deep understanding of Read Naturally concepts and training techniques through large-group sessions, small-group sessions, hands-on practice, and feedback from the experts. You’ll learn how to implement the Read Naturally strategy in a variety of situations. You will leave ready to teach Read Naturally to educators at workshops and conferences in your school system.

To register or for more information, call us at 800.788.4085 or visit our website:

www.readnaturally.com/trntrainer ♦

Read Naturally Introduces Resources New! for Blind, Visually Impaired Students

In late spring 2010, Read Naturally will begin offering resources that enable blind and visually impaired students to take advantage of the Read Naturally Masters Edition (ME) program. Special resource CDs will enable customers to create Braille and large-print versions of the stories for use with the audio support that is available with the corresponding Read Naturally ME levels.

For each Sequenced series and Phonics series level, the resource CD will include the following:

- Story files compatible with Duxbury and Braille 2000 software, enabling you to print all 24 stories in the level in Braille
- PDF files of the stories in the level so you can cut and paste the text to create large-print versions for visually impaired students
- Placement story files for levels 1.0 through 8.0, compatible with Duxbury and Braille 2000 software, and PDF files for creating large-print versions of the placement stories, for use with the *Read Naturally Masters Edition Placement Packet*
- A Braille help file, notes and instructions for using the resources, and information about special symbols

Jeri Cleveland of the Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired had this to say

about using Read Naturally with her blind students: “Read Naturally is the most effective tool I have found for helping students improve their Braille reading fluency. I love the level of autonomy and independence it offers. It is so gratifying to see my students take ownership of their Braille and reading skills.”

If teachers already have a Read Naturally ME level, they will be able to purchase the corresponding resource CD for \$69.00 per level. If they don't have a level, they can purchase the resource CD with the corresponding Read Naturally ME level with audio CDs for a special price of \$159.00 per level, a savings of \$29.00 over purchasing them separately.

Note that the contents of the resource CDs match our most up-to-date versions of the Read Naturally ME audio files. For help in determining whether the resource CDs are compatible with your Read Naturally ME audio CDs, please visit our website:

www.readnaturally.com/braillereq ♦

Researcher Questions WWC's Disregard for Fidelity of Implementation

The head researcher at the non-profit National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) in Eugene, Ore., challenges the What Works Clearinghouse's disregard for fidelity of implementation in its analysis of educational programs.

In an unpublished paper, Jean Stockard, Ph.D., Director of Research at NIFDI, argues that WWC's reliance on “replicated findings” and suggestion that any fidelity issues will average out are fallacies.

For more concerns about the WWC's work, follow this link to the NIFDI website:

www.readnaturally.com/nifdi ♦

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Read Naturally Helps Georgia School Go From “Needs Improvement” to “Distinguished”

An elementary school in Forsyth County, Ga., that once was failing has since been named a Title I Distinguished School for the past seven years, after a reading specialist introduced Read Naturally at the school.



Barb Denbow

Less than 10 years ago, Cumming Elementary School in Cumming, Ga., had been on the “needs improvement” list for four years in a row. If there was no improvement in the fifth year, the state could have required drastic changes, such as taking over its operations, replacing most or all of the staff, or forcing the school to reopen as a public charter school.

Students performed poorly on tests because they could not read the material. Reading fluency at Cumming Elementary was consistently low.

Then, during year five, Barbara Denbow joined the school as a reading specialist. She knew instantly that the reading program needed immediate attention, and Read Naturally was her most effective transformation tool.

For the past eight years, Denbow has used Read Naturally programs with great success. Some students increased their reading levels by two years for every one year in the program. Now, Cumming Elementary is no longer failing. It has been a Title I Distinguished School for the last seven years.

Denbow said that, of the various products she uses, the most valuable to her is Read Naturally Software Edition (SE), which assisted in improving parental involvement as well as enhancing student performance and interest. Students who formerly struggled through sentences now finish books quickly—and actually have fun reading.

“I’ve taught for 30 years and I’ve never seen struggling children enjoy reading like they do with the Read Naturally stories,” Denbow said. “We used to give the kids a piece of candy when they finished their stories. Now we print out the stories with their graphs. They would much rather have that.”

Due to the school’s success, Forsyth County Schools is purchasing Read Naturally for the entire district. ♦

Signs for Sounds

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4 After completing the ten words in a lesson, the teacher dictates the words again in random order, and students spell them independently (without using or seeing the letters on the lesson form).

Signs for Sounds will be available in two levels. **Level 1** teaches the spelling and phonics skills at a first-grade reading level.

Level 2 reviews first-grade spelling and phonics skills and moves on to teach second- and third-grade skills. Each level comes with a pre/post assessment for placing students and measuring progress.

Signs for Sounds will be available June 1,

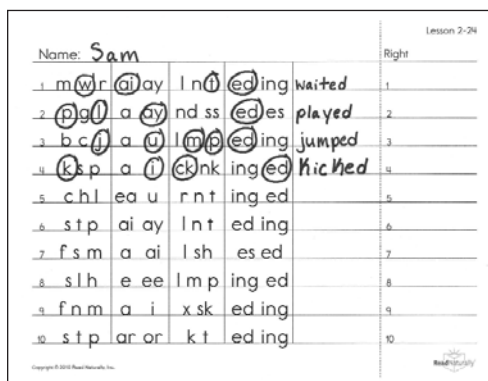


Figure 1. Sample Signs for Sounds Student Worksheet

2010. It is priced at \$49.00 per level. For more information, visit the Read Naturally website:

www.readnaturally.com/signs4sounds ♦