



What's it all about?

- fun and active learning
- lots of creative ideas
- a Christ-centered approach
- strong phonics base
- exposure to many language skills

What are key aspects of "FUN Steps"?

- Key words + rhymes for each letter/phoneme
- Multi-sensory Writing-in-the-Air
- Museum - children bring items which begin with the focus letter
- Minibooks and reproducible "Readables"
- Literature Ties related to letter - to teach comprehension skills and language elements
- Truth Ties - biblical integration
- Literacy Centers and Reading Workshops
- Original class books • Games and songs

What does a typical week look like?

Monday: Literature Tie (story or poem)

and Response (comprehension questions; review using graphic organizer; or other related activity)

Phonics - introduction of the new letter;

Phonetic practice activities;

Work-Out page

Tuesday: Literature Tie review activity

Phonics - Phonetic practice activities;

Work-Out page

Wednesday: Literacy Centers with activities based on letter or Focus Skills;

Optional Work-Out page

Thursday: Reading Workshops - adult led

small groups with literacy activities related to the letter or Focus Skills

Friday: Related Literature activity

(class book; large group game; etc.) or Assessment

What's available?

- set of 7 Minibooks/child
- set of ≈ 100 worksheet masters ("Work-Outs")
- set of ≈ 100 supplementary page masters ("Tie-Ins")
- games for whole class and small groups
- 14 original songs
- ideas for Reading Workshops (and many materials)
- alphabet wall cards
- alphabet rhyme charts
- set of large upper and lower case alphabet cards
- pocket chart alphabet cards (2 sets)
- masters for small alphabet cards
- masters for 12 make-and-take "Readables"
- set of small, initial-sound colored pictures (252)
- masters for small, initial-sound pictures (225)
- ideas for many class books
- ideas for cross-curricular activities
- sight word cards
- 25 "Literature Tie" books
- Colorful 700-page teacher's manual

Ruth Morris draws from her experience of 18 years in the Christian school Kindergarten classroom; the last 14 at Portland Christian. For several years, she has presented many seminars at Christian school conferences based on material in "FUN Steps".

teachingkinders@hotmail.com
www.teachingkinders.com

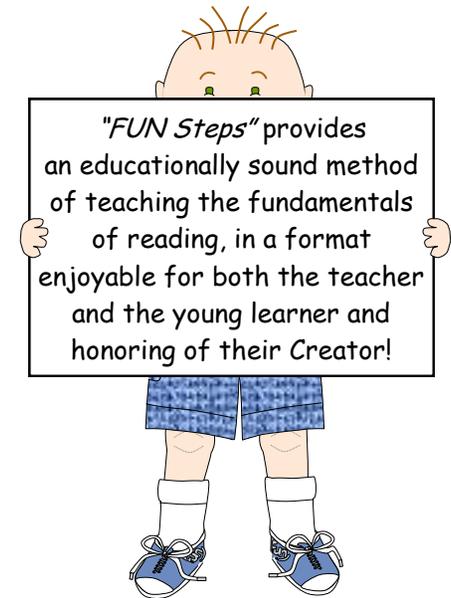
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FundaMental Steps to Reading



A comprehensive, phonics-based reading program for the Christian school Kindergarten



Ruth Morris

Creator of
FUNdaMentals of Teaching Kinders

"I have used several reading curriculums in my teaching career and I rate "FUN Steps" as one of the easiest to follow. And it's so much fun for the children, they do not realize that they are learning. My students are learning phonics in ways that meet the various learning styles that are in a classroom of Kindergarteners. I feel that the letter-a-week format meets the needs of the students that are at grade level. The many other literacy concepts introduced meet the needs of the students above grade level."

Mary Rydman
K teacher
Portland Christian School

"As a first and second grade teacher, I have, over the years of having students who were taught using this reading program, noticed that they are prepared for the phonics reading program we use in the grades that follow. They have opportunities to learn and practice necessary skills, while at the same time appear excited to learn more and explore language. I have found this kindergarten program to be comprehensive and age appropriate."

Sherri James
Primary Teacher
Portland Christian Schools

"As a parent of grade-school-aged children who were taught to read using this method, I personally have witnessed its effectiveness. While working in my sons' kindergarten classes, I saw the children's excitement as they learned to read while having a great time doing it!"

Laura Long
K Parent

Phonetic - "FUN Steps" gives the beginning reader the tools to successfully decode and encode short-vowel words, words with consonant blends or digraphs and words using several long-vowel rules. This is balanced with the teaching of many commonly used sight words.

Systematic - A goal of "FUN Steps" is to teach reading in a logical manner. One letter is emphasized each week, but not in isolation. Material cumulatively builds on what was previously taught, providing a strong foundation for decoding and encoding. Letters are introduced according to the ease of distinguishing their sound, and the frequency of their use in words. Three consecutive consonants are taught before each new short vowel to provide several weeks of practice before the introduction of a new vowel. Any given lesson includes only text, which the student has been given the skills to successfully read. Phonetic words include only the sounds taught up to that point. Sight words are taught as a unit, on an average of one each week, and practiced often. Difficult words in a story are first introduced and practiced in blending and spelling exercises. Long vowel spellings are introduced by logical rules and are taught after completing much practice with the short vowels.

Balanced - "FUN Steps" provides a balance between whole-class instruction and individual/small group activities; written work and hands-on activities. While academically strong, the learning is "wrapped" in fun, active, age-appropriate activities. The pace, itself, is balanced, not overwhelming to any student, yet full of interesting activities, songs and games.

Multi-sensory - "FUN Steps" involves many senses in the teaching of letters and phonetic sounds. The children see the letter form and hear the name and sound of each letter as they say it and write it in the air. This method is an active part of our "warm-up" before reading.

Biblically integrated - One joy of teaching in a Christian school is the privilege, and responsibility, of presenting all truth as having its source in the our great God! Throughout the pages of the "FUN Steps" teacher's manual are many "Truth Ties" which provide a connection between Scripture or a biblical truth and the lesson being taught.

Age-appropriate - Five and six-year olds are meant to be active. Although some written work is part of each week's format, the majority of their learning is based on active involvement. As a parent said, "They're having so much fun, they don't know they're learning!"

Learning styles - "FUN Steps" includes a variety of learning experiences in order to provide for the various learning styles and meet the needs of the individual students in the classroom.

Beyond ABC - As well as providing a strong phonics curriculum, "FUN Steps" keeps the interest of the gifted learner by introducing many language components through age-appropriate activities. The goal is to excite children about words and reading. Although mastery is never expected in this area, many children catch on quickly and enjoy noticing synonyms and homophones, onomatopoeia words, nouns, adjectives and verbs and more.

