



How is Phonics Plus Five different from other reading systems?

Phonics Plus Five is fundamentally different from other reading systems available today in both what it teaches and how it teaches.

Current reading systems typically teach a phonics approach, a whole language approach, or a combination of the two. Phonics teaches word sounds and whole language teaches books, but those are only two of the six skills needed for effective reading. Without the other four, children are often left confused and ill equipped to read.

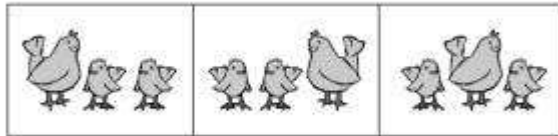
How the Phonics Plus Five material is different:

Phonics Plus Five is the only system that teaches all six skills required for reading. These are:

- the **visual sequencing** skills that let us see words like

art-rat, top-pot, live-evil

as totally different even though they contain identical letters. Until a child learns to read, the left to right order of objects never matters (All these groups of birds, for example, are called “birds” regardless of their order.).



But in reading, sequences are critical and so children need to be taught this skill to become successful readers.

- the **motor skills** that are needed to recreate all the letters of the alphabet with ease. The ability to recreate the letters provides a child with the mastery required to easily read and write those letters.
- the **sounds** that letters and groups of letters make in words – without requiring children to memorize any tedious rules. English is filled with exceptions (explain to a child, for instance, why the “at” sound is pronounced differently in cat, great, what, attend, etc.). Phonics based approaches attempt to teach children almost 600 rules to handle these problems, but children simply can’t memorize them. Phonics Plus Five, on the other hand, has a unique method of instruction that requires no memorization of rules.
- the **concepts** behind words and the way these concepts link together to convey ideas – so that the words on the page make sense. By teaching words in meaningful

combinations (as in trucks moving, big animal, really clean), Phonics Plus Five teaches children how words work in real life.

- the **grammar** of our language – children need to understand the 100 or so “little” words that are central to forming grammatically correct sentences—words like are, do, was, the, of, what.. Phonics Plus Five highlights these key words that have scarcely been taught even though they constitute over 50% of the words on every page and are crucial to every sentence we read and write.
- the **books** —these are what reading is all about but to truly understand and enjoy them, children need to see the way ideas are put together—a step at a time—to create meaningful stories. Without comprehending the “main idea” conveyed by the books, children aren’t really reading. That’s why Phonics Plus Five uses a series of 30 custom books that are scientifically designed to facilitate reading comprehension.

Amazingly, some of the most critical skills for reading are ones we don’t even know we have--they are our hidden abilities! They are, for example, the ones that allow us to read without a moment’s hesitation all the words on a page that do not fit the rules we had to memorize. So, even though we have been taught that “ph” should be sounded as “f,” when we see words like uphill and shepherd, it doesn’t enter our minds that they might be “ufill” or “sheferd.” Phonics Plus Five is the only system with activities to foster the smooth and rapid development of these vital hidden abilities and then capitalizes on these abilities to allow all children—even those who have been struggling —to become star readers.

How the Phonics Plus Five method of teaching is different:

- It provides a simple, easy to use test that tells you exactly where to start the teaching—so the material is matched precisely to your child’s ability.
- It places a major emphasis on accurate spelling and accurate writing, including correct punctuation, so your child attains proficiency in reading’s sister skill – writing.
- It is designed to minimize error—something that occurs all the time in learning and something which can destroy self-esteem if not kept to a minimum.
- When error does occur, it offers specific techniques to overcome the problem and reach success.
- It offers regular, easy to carry out checks of a child’s progress—so you know if you should move ahead or pause to review the material that needs additional work
- Each session requires only a short amount of time—generally between 15-30 minutes—so children rapidly progress without ever feeling overwhelmed.

For a complete description of the Phonics Plus Five reading system, please check out Dr. Blank’s book, “The Reading Remedy.”
(<http://www.phonicsplusfive.com/readingremedy.php>)