



ARTICLES BY BETTY WARD CAIN

Now We're Ready to Read

Now that the student has mastered the sounds of the letters, they are ready to begin to decipher words—read. This is one of the easiest and hardest skills to master. Some students just take off and fly at this point. Others struggle with sounding out the words. No matter how many times they say each sound, they just cannot seem to hear the word. It takes a lot of patience at this point. We are tempted to just say the word for them and go on, but that is not helping them. They need to do this for themselves.

If the student has been allowed to learn the sounds at a slow, steady pace, it is much easier for them at this point. If you have worked on beginning, middle and ending sounds, they will hear the word more readily. A good game to play at this point would be one where you take a pictured object they has only three letters such as bed or sun. Let the student say the words slowly sssssuuuuunnnnn and listen for the first sound “s” and then pick out that letter. Then let them listen for the last sound “n” and lay that letter beside the first leaving a space for the middle sound. Have them try and think of the sound they hear in the middle “u”. Now they can read the word:

s u n

There is a list of simple words for the student to sound out and read on the *First Phonics DVD*.

Once the student has mastered these basic words, they are ready to read some pre-primer and primer books!

Yahoo! They are reading!