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## Post Pictures of Your Award-winning Kids on our Facebook Page

This is an invitation those of you who have students or children who have earned a "Gold Star Certificate of Achievement" to take a picture of the child holding their certificate and post that picture on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/HelpMe2Learn> . Please be sure that you have permission from the child, school and parents before you do this. You can post a picture of the child or if you have a class that has several award-winning students, you can post the whole class. If you post their certificates on the wall of your classroom, you could post a picture of that as well. Give your class and students the recognition they deserve for their hard work.

## Top 3 - Features and Benefits of Super Star Online

What do you like best about "**Super Star Online**"? I recently put together a list of the top 10 features and benefits of Super Star Online. Below is my top 3. Do you agree? I would love to hear from you by email at [dan@helpme2learn.com](mailto:dan@helpme2learn.com) . You can also go to our website at: [www.HelpMe2Learn.com/school/features](http://www.HelpMe2Learn.com/school/features) to read my list of all top 10 features and benefits.

**1. Feature:** "Your Kids will Love Learning with Super Star"

**1. Benefit:** While it is true that learning cannot always be fun and games, it is also true that whenever possible, learning that is fun and games will help capture the student's attention, keep them interested longer, help them retain the information and help them have a better experience with their teacher and school. We believe that engaging students and challenging students to learn should be a priority for instruction. That is why "Kids will Love Learning with Super Star". Our objective is to balance fun with meaningful educational instruction.

While our courses are not strictly game-based learning, our games are the feature that kids like the most. We use a wide variety of

games and game types to keep kids engaged and challenged. Some games are simple and some games are near arcade quality. We use our games to apply the learning from our teaching sections and to stimulate thinking and problem solving. The quality of our games is at the top of our many features that sets us ahead of our competition.

**2.. Feature:** Super Star Online offers language arts courses with a blended phonics approach to learning to read

**2. Benefit:** Over the years, there has been a debate among educators (and parents) about the best approach to teach reading. The phonics approach dates to at least the work of Favell Lee Mortimer in 1834. Over the years, many educators who have criticized the “phonics approach” have adopted the “whole language approach”.

Using modern technology, we are able to offer a **blended approach** to learning the English language. In our unique "**Learn the Words**" activities, we are able to show a picture depicting the word. We are able to show the whole word and the sound of the word that students can hear as many times as they like. Moreover, we are able to show the sounds (phonemes) in (Elkonin) boxes with the sounds that make up the words. Students can move their cursor or finger through the boxes to blend the sounds to make the word sound.

**3. Feature:** Super Star Online uses the “Super Star Data Tracking and Motivational System”

**3. Benefit:** While fun and engaging learning is great, our “Super Star Motivational and Data Tracking System” helps make completing all of the activities, presentations, songs and games a game within a game while giving students, teachers and administrators valuable data about the student’s progress.

As the student answers each question, the correct and incorrect answers are displayed, giving the student immediate feedback, which is critical in helping the student understand the material and motivating the student to complete the activity or game. Once the student completes the activity or game, the purple star will turn silver if there were some mistakes or the star will turn gold if there were no mistakes. The student can then go on to the next activity or they can click on the star to go to the “Super Star Page” to see how many stars they have earned. Teachers have the option of controlling how many mistakes a student can make and still earn a gold star. Students who make too many mistakes can repeat the activity until they do earn a gold star. Some stars are easy to earn (such as listening to a song or presentation) and some stars are more challenging. We find that most students get excited when they earn a gold star and love our simple system.

Additional reports can be accessed by teachers and administrators to track student progress, pre and posttest results and usage reports.

You can also go to our website at:

[www.HelpMe2Learn.com/school/features](http://www.HelpMe2Learn.com/school/features) to read my list of all top 10 features and benefits.

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## Super Star in the Classroom

I believe that the most effective use of our courses can be classroom presentations, discussions and games led by a teacher. When a teacher uses our courses as a learning tool, our courses can be even more effective than when they are used by the individual student. Typically, to use our courses for the whole class, the teacher must have access to a projector, a screen or blank wall, a computer and computer speakers. A wireless mouse and/or keyboard can be a great help. Teachers can also use a "Smart Board" or similar system.

The way that a teacher uses our courses will depend on the lesson, the class and the teacher's instructional style. We now have a YouTube video demonstrating one teacher's use of Phonics 2b and "R-Controlled Vowels": <https://youtu.be/hUIUtoLWALc> . In this video, Mrs. Laurie Calma demonstrates different techniques of interacting with her students as she presents the lesson.

We also offer a "Users Guide and Lesson Plans" which gives suggestions for each lesson of each course. You can find the "Users Guide and Lesson Plans" in the Student Management section of each of our courses except the Home version or you can download them at the bottom of: <http://helpme2learn.com/school/features> .

**Songs:** Our courses that include songs can be great for class sing-alongs. The teacher can then quiz the class about the contents of the song to make sure that the students understand the meaning of the song. The words to the songs are included in our "Users Guide and Lesson Plans".

**Learn the Words:** Many times kids like to skip over our "Learn the Words" sections because they are not as much fun as the games. Our "Learn the Words" sections can be one of the most beneficial sections of our courses. When a teacher spends time with his/her students going over the words, learning the words and sounds and blending out the words, the students will be much better prepared to complete the course. Even better, with older students, the teacher can let the students present the words and take turn controlling the mouse. Making the activity more engaging and giving the students a sense of participation. The words used in our "Learn the Words" sections are included in our "Users Guide and Lesson Plans".

**Presentations:** Most of our courses include instruction presentations, some of them are interactive. As shown in the above video, teachers can let the students interact by answering the questions before moving on. Even better, teachers can let the students take turns answering the questions with the mouse. At the end of the presentation, teachers can review the material with the students.

**Games:** Many of our games are very suitable for class participation. Whenever appropriate, teachers should let the students use the mouse or keyboard to play the game. Some games are suitable for letting students play as teams and compete against each other to beat the high score for that game. Print pages for our games and activities can be found in our "Users Guide and Lesson Plans".

## Chrome Browser

**Problems with the Chrome Browser** - Since the latest update of the **Chrome browser for Windows**, we have noticed that Chrome does not always detect Flash content. If you are using a Windows, MAC or Chromebook computer and you see a black screen that says: "**This course requires a browser with Flash. If you are on a computer, please go to [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and install the Flash Player. If you are on a tablet or phone, you may not be able to run this course on this device.**" This is a problem that can easily be corrected, you may need to change your settings to allow Flash to run. We have provided instructions for this on our support website at: <http://helpme2learn.com/support/online>, scroll down to **Having Trouble?**, then look at item 4. We are looking into a fix for this on our end.

We have also found that there are problems with the **Chrome browser for Android** tablets or phones. This would occur if you are using one of the two courses that we have converted to HTML5: Beginning Reading with Phonics or Phonics 1a - Vowel Sounds. We realize that the Chrome browser is the most popular browser for Android devices. There is no easy fix for these problems, so for now, we recommend that you download and run another Android browser such as Firefox or Dolphin.

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## Phonics 1b - HTML5

**Phonics 1b - HTML5:** We are now testing the HTML5 version of Phonics 1b - Consonant Sounds. We expect it to be released sometime mid May.

Currently, our other HTML5 courses are: Beginning Reading with Phonics and Phonics 1a - Vowel Sounds.

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## Need a Quote?

It is getting to that time of year that many of you will be looking at your budget for next year. We hope that you plan to include our products. If you need a written quote, I would be happy to provide one for you. Send me a request for a quote to: [dan@helpme2learn.com](mailto:dan@helpme2learn.com) . We appreciate your business.

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