



## **A Blended Phonics Approach to Learning to Read**

One of the many features that our courses offer is a blended phonics approach. For many years, educators debated which was better: teaching phonics or teaching whole language. For many, phonics was just too complicated with too many symbols and too many rules. For others, the whole language approach did not offer a foundation of understanding how sounds make words and a system of learning new words other than memorizing new words.

My school used the whole language approach and when I was in college, I felt like I was missing something. I was missing understanding how to learn new words and sound out words. To fill that void, I signed up for a linguistics course, but it did not take me long to realize that was not phonics and it was not what I was looking for. Dropped it the first week.

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. And we are able to show the sounds (phonemes) in (Loconian) 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.

Thus we are blending not only the sounds of words, we are blending phonics with a whole language approach, creating a powerful and effective way to learn new words. We add to this our presentations, explaining phonics and using phonics to understand how to learn new words and pronounce new words. We also present combination sounds and some basic phonics rules to help complete the instruction as well as sight words that do not follow the rules.

In our more advanced courses, we show how sounds are combined to create syllables and how syllables make words.

We wrap this with our wonderful songs, games, animations and all the other features to make a fun and effective way to learn the English language. But most of all, we are creating a foundation for educational success.

As we have heard many times from our customers, "I wish I had something like this when I was in school".

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## **A New Partner**

I am pleased to announce that we are now partnering with Super Star Phonics, Inc. to promote a blended phonics approach to learning

to read: [www.superstarphonics.com](http://www.superstarphonics.com) .

Super Star Phonics is targeted for families rather than schools. They offer an online subscription to our courses based on the grade level of the students and users can manage their own subscription from the links on their web site. They will also offer links and resources to those interested in a blended phonics approach. Monthly subscriptions start at \$4.95 per month, depending on the phonics package. Math titles are not available from this site.

I also want to announce that at the recommendation of the Super Star Phonics team, we recently renamed Beginning Reading - Kcc to Beginning Reading with Phonics to emphasize the blended phonics approach of this title. None of the content has been changed,

Schools should continue purchasing Super Star Online from the Help Me 2 Learn Company.

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### Many Thanks

Many thanks to all of our customers and friends. We always appreciate your comments and suggestions. If we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to let us know how.

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**Robly**