



"Learn the Words" and Speed Rounds

While we pride ourselves on making our courses easy-to-use and user friendly, we believe that our courses are most effective when used with the guidance of a teacher or a parent.



Our courses typically include all the components necessary for effective learning:

1. **Instruction** - usually in the form of a song or animated presentation.
2. **"Learn the Words" and Speed Rounds** - to build the vocabulary needed to complete the activity or game.
3. **Engaging Activity or Game** - a fun way to use the letters, sounds or words used in the lesson.
4. **Pre-Test and Post-Test** - proof of progress and mastery of the lesson when the pre-test is given early. The tests can also help determine whether a student is ready for the course or if they have already mastered the material.

Teachers (or parents) can be most useful in helping kids with the parts of the lessons that are most difficult or not as much fun. Some kids find that our "Learn the Words" and Speed Rounds are not as much fun as the games. Hard to believe!

Our "Learn the Words" and Speed Rounds are one of the most unique and important component of our courses. These activities not only

prepare kids for the games or activities that follow, but they show how words are formed from sounds and we give kids an opportunity to relate pictures to words. Our approach is a **blended approach** because we are using a combination of phonics and whole words.

Here are some suggestions and tips for using our “Learn the Words” and Speed Rounds:

1. If possible, make the “Learn the Words” and Speed Rounds a whole class activity (you may want to create a new user account for class presentations; you can make this account active or inactive as needed). If you can project the “Learn the Words” and Speed Rounds to a screen and lead the class through the words, asking the class to repeat the sounds and words, you will find that the kids will be more engaged. You can blend the sounds by moving through the sound boxes to hear how the sounds make the words. If your kids are old enough and good with the mouse, you can let them attempt to blend the sounds.

When appropriate, let your kids complete the speed rounds by taking turns. You can let each kid complete the speed round or you can create teams and let them take turns. You will find that this will encourage them to do the speed rounds on their own account.

2. If a whole class activity is not possible or after the presentation when the kids are working on their own, work with the kids to make sure that they are not skipping over the “Learn the Words” and Speed Rounds. Show them how to listen to the words and sounds that make up the words and show them how to blend the sounds. Watch them complete the speed rounds and make sure that they complete the speed round to the required level before going on.

Check the speed rounds tab on the Super Star Page to make sure that students are completing the speed rounds to the required level. Speed rounds are not required to earn a silver or gold star certificate in the lower level courses, but are required in "**Language Arts Review 3a & 3b with Sports**".

3. You can make the course progressive, thus requiring completion of the speed round before the student can go on to the next activity (use the Student Management section of the course).

4. While we strive to make our courses fun and engaging, we know the the “Learn the Words” section is not as much fun as the games. Many kids will skip over the “Learn the Words” if they are allowed to. If kids skip the “Learn the Words”, they may find that they don't know the words that are used in the games.

If you have any questions about our teacher features, please feel free to contact me at 800-460-7001 anytime after 9AM PST or send an e-mail.

Tips for "Learn the Words" and Speed Rounds



1. In "**Beginning Reading with Phonics**" there are three levels of "Learn the Words" and Speed Rounds. Students must complete level one to the required level, in order to unlock level two. Students must complete level two to the required level, in order to unlock level three. We did this so as to not require too many words at one time.

2. "**Phonics 1a - Vowel Sounds**" features over 600 words in our "Learn the Words" section. Many of these words are accessed from our "Learn More Words" button. With so many words, many of these words do not have a picture to show the word.

3. In "**Phonics 1b - Consonant Sounds**" we offer the "World Record Speed Round Challenge" whereby students can compete for the highest speed round score for their: class, school, state, country, or the world. Scores are posted on the Leader Board. Students can turn off the "World Record Speed Round Challenge" if they want. The "World Record Speed Round Challenge" is only available in Phonics 1b and it is currently only available in our Flash version.

I am a little disappointed that the "World Record Speed Round Challenge" isn't a little more popular than it seems to be. I was hoping I would get more feedback about it.

4. In "**Phonics 2b - Intermediate Level II**" we no longer use pictures to show the words, but we show the syllables and the word as used in a sentence.

5. In "**Language Arts Review 3a & 3b - with Sports**" we no longer show the sounds that form the word, but show the word, the syllables, a sentence, the word as read in a sentence and the definition of the word. Completion of the speed round at the required level is required for a gold star medal of achievement.

Teacher & Admin Resources

Super Star Online now includes a course for teachers and site

administrators called **Teacher & Admin Resources**. This course contains step-by-step instructions explaining the optional teacher features of Super Star Online and movies that also explain those features. It also contains movies to help site administrators add people and assign courses and students to classes. Now, everything that we had on our support web site is in one easy to find place. **Bonus** - now includes **Super Star Movies** (limited time preview). [Click Here](#) to view our Teachers & Admins Resources course (free).
User name: teach, password: star

If you have a current subscription to Super Star Online, you should have this course available from within your subscription.

Tours of most of our courses can be found on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HelpMe2Learn>

We would greatly appreciate it if you could forward this e-mail to your classroom teachers and or friends who could benefit from Super Star Online. You can learn more about Super Star Online at: <https://helpme2learn.com/school/online> . We offer a free 30-day trial to schools.

Clever Update

We have been using Clever for a couple of months now and it seems to be going well. We had a few glitches in the beginning, but we have corrected those problems.

Clever is free to schools and districts, but it is not free to publishers. Clever offers single sign-on, Clever badges to make signing on easier for young kids, and Secure Sync which automates adding students and managing students.

You can learn more about Clever at: <https://clever.com/> . We offer a free 60-day trial of Super Star Online with Clever.

Paradise Elementary School - Paradise, California

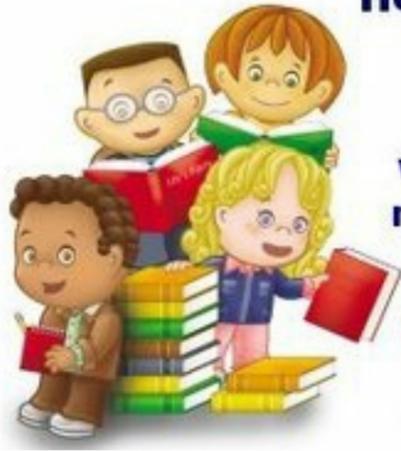
As you may have seen on the news, Paradise, California was the center of the Camp Fire that devastated the town. Paradise Elementary School was one of eight schools that were lost in the fire. Paradise Elementary School is a long time customer of ours.

My heart and best wishes goes out to Paradise and especially the staff and students of Paradise Elementary School. I am happy to report that Paradise Elementary School has announced that they will resume classes on December 3rd, at a temporary location.



Need a Quote?

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 . Let me know if I can help in any way. We appreciate your business.



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"Your Kids will Love Learning
with Super Star"



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