

Books Station

The Books Station starts with a total of sixty-six twenty-page books, each about six inches in size. There are thirteen two-sound books, twenty-three three-sound books, and thirty-three transition books. Where the phrase-level books are will be explained shortly.

Two-Sound Books



The picture above shows four two-sound book pages, two from a triangle-level book and two from a circle-level book.

All sixty-six books use the Two and Three-Sound Flipbook model. Each word or phrase is on its own page. The picture the word or phrase describes is on the following page - ten words or phrases per book and ten matching pictures. The child reads the word or phrase and anticipates its picture on the next page.

Putting the words on one page and the picture on the following page lets the child feel the power of reading. The child's reading of the word or phrase lets that child know what to expect on the next page. The act of reading gives each child this power.

Three-Sound and Phrase Books



The picture above shows four three-sound book pages, two from the yellow triangle-level book and two from the red triangle-level book.

The books at the three-sound level each have the standard happy-face triangle, circle, square, rectangle, and star codings. However, past the first two triangle-level books, all the books are at the phrase level, with each picture now described with two words instead of one.

The Picture Packets and Worksheets Stations assessed students' ability to read by requiring them either to match sound-words or phrases to Picture Packet pictures or choose between two pictures on a worksheet. At the Picture Packets Station, children work together. At the Worksheets Station, children either work together or work alone and then have a fellow student check their efforts.

At the Books Station, children read each book by themselves. There is no need to turn to another child to see if a word or phrase has been read correctly. The answer is on the very next page. Children read the word or phrase, think what the word or phrase might mean, and then turn the page for an immediate answer.

Because the answer is always just a page away, once any child knows all 44 sounds and can read two-sound words easily, the books are used to provide every child with the opportunity to experience reading phrases.

Transition Books



The picture above shows four transition book pages from the fifth heart-level book. The transition books contain longer phrases. They also contain the letter spellings for each word.

We do not know exactly how learning takes place. We do know how to present learning opportunities, but we do not know what exactly causes a child's mind to leap from not knowing to knowing.

Allowing ALL children to read books that contain both sound-words and letter spellings, regardless of our own assumptions about an individual student's readiness for the transition level, provides an opportunity for every child's mind to leap from not knowing to knowing, without our prejudging the likelihood of its happening.

More Books

The Books Station's sixty-six books are just the beginning. As soon as all 44 sounds have been introduced, all students, regardless of their reading level, begin stamping out their own words and drawing pictures for them at the Stamping and Creative Writing Station.

The words and their illustrations are turned into student-authored books that will be added to the Books Station collection. The student-authored books start at the stamping level and continue all the way through the letters-only level.

The teacher also adds his or her own books to the Books Station. Each of the 2,048 kits distributed from 1984 through 1993 contained a tiny set of stamps that teachers used to add the sounds to the pages of any of their own classroom library of children's books. The 44 sound-pictures were subsequently made available as a computer font downloadable from the Dekodiphukan section of the Center's website.

As a font, the sound-pictures can be made available in any size the teacher might elect to use.



A keyboard template indicating the location of each sound-picture is, of course, also downloadable from the Center's website.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	-	=
Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	[]
A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	;	/	Note: / not ^
Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	,	.		\	

Please note: "Man with lasso" key is the forward slash (/) and not the apostrophe (')

The stamping, transition, and vowels-only books are added to the Books Station as the more advanced students are ready to read at each level. However, any student, regardless of supposed reading level, can read or attempt to read any book he or she wishes.

A slower student may decide to read a book that is a bit too difficult for him or her at that point and simply ask any other child at the Station for help with some words. Or, a faster and a slower student may decide to read a particular book together. Children do not need to ask the teacher for help with their reading. Help is already everywhere around them.

Sample Pages from Teacher-Made Books

Below are samples of pages to which teachers added sounds before the computer font existed. The availability of the font makes the process of a teacher's preparing books for the Book Station so much easier.



Father said, "Oh, oh!"
 Mother said, "Oh, my!"
 Baby said, "Oh, look!
 I see something."

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Where is
 the ball now?

