



Session 5 | Essential Frameworks: The Three Rs (Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic)

Recommended Books:

- *The Three R's*, by Ruth Beechick (grades K-3)
- *You Can Teach Your Child Successfully*, by Ruth Beechick (grades 4-8)

Reading

Keep in mind that children mature at differing speeds and ages. No curriculum will be a perfect match! 😊

There are 5 steps to teaching your child to read:

1. Pre-Reading

- The “real stuff” you teach your child as a foundation for reading.

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- Deuteronomy 6:6-9



The fear of YHVH is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- Proverbs 9:10

2. Beginning

- Equivalent to kindergarten (Word Power K)
- Begin teaching the sounds of the letters.

3. Blending

- Equivalent to around first grade (Word Power 1)
- Begin teaching how consonants and vowels blend together.

4. Decoding

- Equivalent to around second grade (Phonics/Reading 2, or Word Power 2)
- Your student practices all the different phonograms in our language.

This step also includes learning to write (copywork, dication, creative writing) and spelling.

Two Types of Spelling Lists:

1. Phonetic
2. Common Words

1. For more spelling tips and several free downloads, go to <https://anneelliott.com/2009/04/how-to-teach-spelling>



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Frameworks & Structures



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5. Fluency

- Equivalent to around third and fourth grade
- Your student needs many hours of practice before expecting him to read for comprehension.
- Over-learn all reading skills.

Kinds of Books:

1. Books that are *too hard*. (Maximum: 5 difficult words per 100 words)
2. Books that are *too easy*.
3. Books that are *just right*. 😊

Note: The principle of “just right” works in choosing your child’s grade level or ability level across the curriculum. Don’t push too hard!

Writing

Use the natural method: copywork and dictation.

Writing is hard work! However, it gets easier as we practice. Difficulty should gradually increase:

1. Tracing
2. Copying from a model
3. Copy from memory
4. Copy a paragraph from a model
5. Copy a paragraph from dictation
6. Dictate a longer piece
7. Compare several models of dictation
8. Take notes while listening
9. Original writing from one’s own mind



Don't teach to the curriculum. Teach to your child!

Nice Reference Books:

- *Foundations of Grammar*, by Anne Elliott
- *The ABCs and All Their Tricks*, by Margaret Bishop
- *English from the Roots Up*, by Joegil K. Lundquist
- *Beyond Blend Phonics*, by Donald Potter

Note: Keep track of what you teach each day, so that you can have evidence that you did each subject. This is an important habit to have!

Arithmetic

Arithmetic is the language of numbers.

Note: If you don't feel confident teaching math, try learning alongside your child. Do life together!

If math is difficult for your child, teach him one simple way to solve problems, and stick to this method.

If math is easy for your child, teach your child multiple ways to approach the same problems, so that he does not become bored.



The Purpose of Math Testing:

- Achievement Testing: Government silliness 😊
- Unit Testing: Useful for classroom teachers, so they can be sure all students are on the same page
- Weekly Testing: To check for weak areas and to build confidence in strong areas.

Levels of Thinking in Arithmetic:

1. Manipulatives – touch and feel real objects
2. Mental Images – picture real objects in the mind
3. Abstract, Inside-the-Head Thinking

Note: If a concept in your current level is too difficult, try to explain the concept in an easier level.