

Three Instructional Tracks for Students Working Independently in the *We All Can Read Online Program*

Perhaps the most difficult challenge students face as they begin to work in this online program is to determine the correct instructional pace to establish in learning the information contained in our 720 online lessons. **The instructional goal for all students regardless of their background is to learn any lesson in this program to a point of mastery.** The *We All Can Read* program is thorough and comprehensive. Some students require a great deal more repetition than do others to master concepts and skills. Our program's philosophy has always been to provide an abundance of material for each new discrete element introduced so that even the most challenged student will have enough material to access in order to master the concept/skill being taught. However, not all students will require the same amount of repetition to learn a new concept/skill and thus do not need to complete the same number of lessons. Our lessons are ordered so that it is possible for the more advanced students to skip lessons or portions of lessons when appropriate. This document is designed to guide the teacher or student in determining what lessons, if any, may be safely skipped, and the pace to establish in learning the lessons.

Pacing is absolutely crucial. If the student goes too fast and fails to master the information as he proceeds through the lessons, results will be disappointing. On the other hand, if a student goes too slowly, then the student will become bored, discouraged, and ultimately conclude the program is too elementary for his needs. This challenge regarding determining the appropriate instructional pace is compounded by the fact these lessons must be adapted to the needs of students who span in age from grade 3 through grade 12 and adults as well. Not only do students span a great range in their chronological age, they also represent a great cross spectrum in terms of their background knowledge of phonics as well. Some students know next to nothing regarding the relationship of letters and sounds; other students with a more

adequate foundation in phonics require only a fast and comprehensive review of English phonics. The challenge for a teacher or student at the beginning of this program is to choose the correct instructional track provided below for each student based upon his unique needs.

In order to meet the needs of students who represent such a large cross spectrum in terms of age and background, we offer three instructional tracks that the teacher or student can choose between. **The three tracks are not absolute and set in stone but rather represent a continuum of options for the teacher or student to choose between.** In the end it is the teacher or student himself who must determine the optimum instructional pace to establish and maintain while learning the information presented in this online program. As one begins to work in these lessons, he will begin to sense the appropriate pace to establish. **When in doubt, go slowly and be thorough; you can always increase the instructional pace, but it is often not so easy to slow down the instructional pace without first starting over or repeating a significant number of lessons.**

But before the three instructional tracks are presented, there is one additional feature of the *We All Can Read* curriculum that must be considered – and that feature is the extensive use made of nonsense words in the first half of the program.

Nonsense words (words that have no meaning) are essential to use in teaching phonics to older students and adults. Older students may know thousands of words by sight. Often the only way to insist that these students rely upon their knowledge of phonics to sound out words is to present them with words they have never seen before. The same principle is equally true when dictating words for spelling. Some students have memorized the spelling of hundreds or even thousands of words regardless of whether or not they understand the relationship of letters within a word and the sounds those letters represent. When students are asked to read or spell a nonsense word, they must rely

exclusively upon their knowledge of phonics; there is no memory component involved and thus no other way to be able to read or spell a nonsense word.

Most pages of Sections One and Two in our online program (there are five sections in all) are divided into two parts: real words and nonsense words. No purpose is served by having students call out or spell words they have long ago memorized; in fact, **older students and adults who are asked to read and spell one-syllable words they already know will often prematurely conclude that this phonics program is too easy for them. For this reason it is strongly recommended that older students and adults primarily use the lessons with nonsense words in Sections One and Two of the book.**

The two exceptions to this recommendation for students in sixth grade and beyond would be in the instance where students in these grades read and spell less than eighty percent of the real words from any given lesson correctly or in the instance where students are learning English as a second language.

Below are the three instructional tracks. Please choose the instructional track that most accurately describes a student's situation and learning needs. Once a student begins to work in the lessons, the teacher or student will gain a better understanding as to how the program is organized and be better able to determine the best instructional pace that meets the student's needs.

Instructional Track One

Students up to the fifth grade should **proceed through all lessons in the *We All Can Read Online Program* in exact numerical order.** No lessons are to be skipped; student work in all of the lessons – both those containing real words and nonsense words. However, if a student in this grade range immediately recognizes

the real words and can spell them with a very high degree of accuracy, then for this student, choose Instructional Track Two.

Instructional Track Two

This sequence of lessons is for those students beyond the fifth grade who are significantly behind in their reading. To be considered significantly behind a student will read at least two grades below his chronological age. A student in this category will often misread the words on the page, will stumble, substitute, and guess at words, and will have very poor spelling skills.

Sequence of Lessons to Follow — Track Two

Students in sixth grade and above should work in the following lessons and in this exact order. The lessons listed below consist primarily of nonsense words.

Print Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42, 43, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 60, 61, 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 74, 75, 78, 79, 82, 83, 86, 88, 89, 92, 93, 101, 102, 103, 106, 107, 110, 111, 114, 121, 122, 123, 126, 127, 130,

131, 134, 140, 141, 144, 145, 148, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 189, 190, 229, 230, 231, 234, 240, 241, 244, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 299, 300, 303, 305, 306, 307, 308, 330, 333, 334, 337, 338, 341, 343, 360, 363, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369.

149, 152, 158, 159, 160, 163, 164, 167, 168, 171, 173, 174, 193, 194, 197, 212, 213, 216, 217, 220, 221, 224, 225, 228, 245, 248, 249, 252, 254, 255, 256, 259, 260, 263, 264, 267, 276, 277, 280, 281, 284, 285, 288, 290, 291, 292, 295, 296, 309, 310, 311, 314, 315, 318, 319, 322, 324, 325, 326, 329, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 355, 356, 359,

Students in track two work in all of the remaining lessons in the book after Lesson 369 to Lesson 720. It is critical that students

follow the numerical order of lessons as they proceed through this program. Do not skip lessons, and do not jump ahead in lessons. **Follow the exact numerical sequence indicated in this list.**

Instructional Track Three

This sequence of lessons is for those students beyond the fifth grade who have gaps in their knowledge of phonics but are able to read and spell with some degree of success. These students are behind in their reading and spelling, but they are not behind more than two academic years. These students will benefit from a comprehensive course in phonics but are capable of learning this information in an accelerated fashion.

With this group of students it often is not necessary nor even desirable to work through every lesson in the program. And even within a lesson, it is often not necessary to review all of the words found within that lesson. If a student already knows the skill that is being presented in a particular lesson, then no instructional purpose is served by having him continue to work in that lesson once he has demonstrated mastery. Once the teacher or student has determined that he knows the material in a particular lesson to a point of automatic response or mastery, discontinue work in that lesson and proceed to the next lesson. **203 quizzes are embedded in this program; so long as the student is able to score 80% or higher on the quizzes, then he should continue through the suggested sequence of lessons in as expedited a fashion as is possible.**

As an example, if a student is working in an oral reading exercise containing eight rows of words, and it becomes obvious to either the teacher or student after the student has read four of those rows of words that he is able to read the words both accurately and fluently, then discontinue the lesson at that point and proceed to the next lesson. If a student is working in a spelling lesson, and he is able to spell the words in that lesson with a high degree of accuracy, then after taking dictation in several rows of

words successfully, discontinue the dictation and take the quiz at the end of the lesson. So long as a student scores 80% or above on the quiz associated with that spelling lesson, he should proceed to the next lesson.

Sequence of Lessons to Follow — Track Three

Students in this track work in the following lessons. The lessons listed below consist primarily of nonsense words up to Lesson 369; no nonsense words are used in the program after Lesson 369. In addition, many review lessons are omitted.

Print Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42, 43, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 60, 61, 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 74, 75, 82, 83, 86, 88, 89, 92, 93, 101, 102, 103, 106, 107, 110, 111, 114, 121, 122, 123, 126, 127, 130, 131, 134, 140, 141, 148, 149, 152, 158, 159, 160, 163, 164, 167, 168, 171, 173, 174, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 193, 194, 197, 212, 213, 220, 221, 228, 229, 230, 231, 234, 240, 241, 244, 245, 248, 249, 252, 254, 255, 256, 263, 264, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 284, 285, 288, 290, 291, 292, 299, 300, 303, 310, 311, 318, 319, 322, 324, 325, 326, 329, 330, 337, 338, 341, 351, 352, 359, 360, 363, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 376, 377, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 393, 394, 397, 398, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 442, 443, 444, 447, 448, 451, 452, 453, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 466, 467, 468, 472, 473, 480, 481, 488, 489, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 504, 505, 506, 514, 515, 516, 523, 524, 525, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 554, 555, 556, 562, 563, 564, 571, 572, 573, 580, 581, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 596, 597, 598, 603, 604, 611, 612, 613, and all remaining lessons from 614 to 720. It is critical that students follow the numerical order of lessons as they proceed through this program. Do not skip lessons, and do not jump ahead in lessons. **Follow the exact numerical sequence indicated in this list.**