

Getting started with teaching your child to read

TEACHING WITH



Little Reader™



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GREETINGS FROM THE FOUNDER OF BRILLKIDS!



Thank you for purchasing the Little Reader Learning System.

The decision you have taken to invest in your child's learning is about to change your and your child's lives for the better.

How Little Reader came about

The idea for Little Reader was born from my own experience of teaching my daughter Felicity to read as a baby. My wife and I personally tried everything out there – flash cards, homemade books, DVDs, PowerPoint slideshows... and a prototype computer program that would become Little Reader.

We successfully taught Felicity to read dozens of words by the age of 11 months, and successfully filmed her reading – twice – at 12 months. The videos can be found on the BrillBaby channel on YouTube ([youtube.com/brillbaby](https://www.youtube.com/brillbaby)). By age two and a half Felicity was reading independently (also captured on video). Today, at age three and half, she reads roughly at third-grade level, and continues to amaze us all with her voracious appetite for books.



Felicity reading Cinderella by herself (2 years)

While the process of teaching Felicity was an enjoyable and fulfilling one, it was also frustrating at times. Preparing her lessons took huge amounts of commitment, time and money. Keeping track of what we had taught and had yet to teach was also a pain. I knew there had to be a better way.

Little Reader is designed to be that way. As a parent who taught his baby, I can tell you that the Little Reader Learning System is exactly what I would have wanted when I was teaching my baby to read.

Real-life success stories

It's immensely gratifying to see the success parents have had in teaching their babies to read with the Little Reader Learning System.

We have received countless videos and written testimonials from parents using Little Reader, many of which you can find on www.BrillKids.com. All of this lets us know that our hard work has paid off. Go to [page 19](#) to read excerpts of our parent testimonials.

Before you start

We truly believe that with Little Reader, we have taken all of the hard work out of teaching for you. There are just a couple of things I would urge you to read before you begin using your Little Reader Learning System...

Understand the curriculum!

Why are your Little Reader lessons designed the way they are? How many times should each lesson be played? Find out the answer to these and many more related questions in Understanding the Little Reader Curriculum (see [page 13](#)).

Interact!

During Multisensory lessons, try your best to involve as many of your child's senses as you can, so that your child not only sees the word and hears the word, but also 'feels' the word whenever possible.

Personalize!

One of the keys to effective teaching is to customize your lessons, as that is a surefire way to make them as engaging as possible for your child. For ideas, check out the Little Reader Tips in the Start Guide, accessible from within Little Reader.

Of course, you may find yourself in need of answers to more fundamental questions – such as “Why even teach a baby to read?” This guide is designed to address all of those questions, or point you in the direction of the answers.

Last but certainly not least...

The number one rule of teaching is to **have fun doing it**. Results should never be the focus of lessons. Instead, treat lessons primarily as a time for bonding, and enjoy the learning experience with your child.

Do remember to share your teaching experiences with us at the BrillKids Forum (forum.brillkids.com) – the place where you can meet other parents just like you.



KL Wong

Founder, BrillKids Inc.

April 2009

NEW TO EARLY READING? START HERE

If you've never seen a baby reading before, BrillBaby's Baby Reading Videos page should be your first port of call. There, you can see dozens of reading babies, including Felicity (daughter of the BrillKids founder) and Naimah (daughter of the BrillBaby editor), reading at 12 and 16 months respectively.



Felicity, 12 months

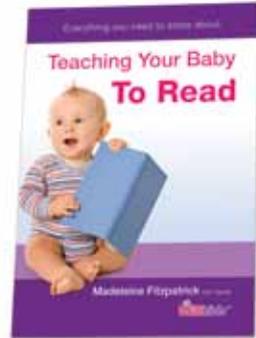


Naimah, 16 months

To see our baby reading videos, go to:

www.BrillBaby.com > Teaching Baby > Teach Your Baby to Read
> Baby Reading Videos

If you're new to the topic of teaching babies to read, you may want to arm yourself with knowledge on this important subject before beginning to teach your child. For that reason, we've enclosed a special Teaching Your Baby To Read booklet, designed to provide all the information you need.



In case you don't have time to read the whole booklet, you may want to dip into the chapters that interest you most.

If you think babies are too young to learn to read, or wonder why anyone would teach a baby to read, then **Why Teach Reading Early?** is for you. Although teaching babies to read is fun, that isn't the only reason for doing it. Children who learn to read in their first few years of life experience long-term gains in reading ability as well as other spheres of life. To read a detailed discussion of these issues, turn to Chapter 2.

You may be wondering how you are going to teach your baby the alphabet. In fact, babies can learn to recognize words before learning their letters! However, children do need to learn phonics – the sounds made by letters and letter combinations – in order to progress to phonetic reading (sounding out words). Some people think that children shouldn't learn to read whole words. We believe that it is beneficial to learn to read as young as possible, and that so long as children learn phonics before they start school, they will be fluent readers. For more on this debate, head to Chapter 3: **Whole Language Vs Phonics.**

The two main methods of teaching babies and young children to read are the **flash method** and **multisensory method**. Read about what each entails in Chapters 4 and 5 respectively.

The Teaching Your Baby To Read booklet is about early reading in general, not Little Reader. Our learning system enables you to give flash, multisensory and phonics lessons. For an overview of each type of lesson, see [pages 9-12](#) of this guide. For a detailed explanation of the Little Reader curriculum, turn to [page 13](#).

If you have another question about teaching your child, be sure to visit us in the BrillKids Forum (forum.brillkids.com), where you can meet other parents who are teaching their children to read.

GETTING STARTED WITH LITTLE READER



Your Little Reader Learning System comes with a built-in curriculum, making it as easy as can be to begin teaching your child immediately. The curriculum includes flash, multisensory and phonics lessons, which you can learn more about below.

To get started with Little Reader, please refer to the accompanying **Quick Start Guide**.

There is also a Start Guide accessible from within Little Reader. To access it, simply click on the Start Guide button on the Home screen.

For questions not covered in the Quick Start Guide, please see the comprehensive Little Reader FAQ section on our website: www.BrillKids.com > Support > Little Reader

For more detailed information about your learning system, please refer to the Little Reader manual. You can access the manual from your CD-ROM or from within Little Reader.

You may seek technical support through the forum:

[Forum.BrillKids.com](#) > [BrillKids Software](#) > [Little Reader](#)

– [General Discussions](#)

If you have other questions or concerns, please email us through our website:

[www.BrillKids.com](#) > [Home](#) > [Contact Us](#)

TYPES OF LESSONS IN LITTLE READER

The Little Reader curriculum contains flash lessons, multisensory lessons, and phonics lessons. Here, you can get an overview of each type of lesson and its functions.

What is a flash lesson?

The flash method is based on the practice of teaching with flash cards (except in this case, no actual cards are involved). Flash cards are so named because the idea is to show them as quickly – and briefly – as possible (i.e. flash them!). The reason for this is that information presented at speed is more likely to be absorbed unconsciously by the right hemisphere of the brain. Learning with the right brain enables us to memorize large amounts of information effortlessly. This type of teaching is particularly effective for very young children, who are more right-brain dominant than older children and adults.

For more on this type of learning, go to:

www.BrillBaby.com > Early Learning Basics > Right-Brain Learning

Word Flash:



Picture Flash:



Flash lessons in Little Reader are either Word Flash or Picture Flash – that is, they involve either words or pictures. The pronunciation of the word is played at the moment the word or picture is flashed. So, for example, during Word Flash, your child might hear “cat” and see this...



... while during Picture Flash, she would hear “cat” and see this...



What is a multisensory lesson?

The multisensory method emphasizes learning with as many of the senses as possible. This strategy makes learning more effective, as well as lots of fun! During a multisensory lesson, you and your child should take your time – indeed, as long as you want – over each word. Young children love watching animations, hearing and imitating animal noises, and performing actions such as raising their arms or kicking their legs. During a multisensory lesson, your child will see a word followed by a picture illustrating the word's

meaning (you can reverse this order, or play the word on either side of the media, if you wish). Because each word in Little Reader has several picture files attached to it, your child will gain a deep understanding of the meaning of the word – as well as enjoy the variety in his lessons.

Pictures are accompanied by either “picture audio,” or sound effects (for example, chirping to accompany a picture of a bird). Picture audio involves a phrase or question designed to encourage your child to act out a word, or get her thinking about the word’s meaning in context. For example, for the word “clap,” your child will hear “Can you clap your hands?” while seeing a picture of a child clapping, and right before seeing a video of a child clapping.

It is at this point that you should take time to interact with your child, so that you are stimulating as many of her senses (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, etc.) as possible. Help her clap her hands (or encourage her to clap) when she is shown the word “clap,” and rub her ears (or ask her to show you her ears) when teaching the word “ear,” and so on. The more of her senses you involve, the easier it becomes for her to remember the word.



What is a phonics lesson?

Phonics involves understanding the sounds made by different letters and letter combinations. Babies and young children can learn to read dozens if not hundreds of words without knowing what the individual letters in words stand for. However, a good understanding of phonics is required for children to progress from whole word reading (recognizing whole words) to phonetic reading (being able to sound out previously unseen words).

Most children will be given phonics lessons in school – but there is no need to wait that long. The Little Reader curriculum is designed to introduce your child to phonics as soon as she has built up a solid vocabulary of sight words. Little Reader's Pattern Phonics™ system therefore appears from the fifth week of the 12-month curriculum.



No matter how young your child is when she first encounters the second half of the curriculum, she will be ready to begin intuitively grasping the rules of phonics. Babies as young as 18 months have been known to begin figuring out the rules of phonics, simply by seeing the same phonemes come up in different words. Little Reader's Pattern Phonics™ lessons are designed to make letter-sound correspondences apparent implicitly, by grouping words in logical sequences – for example, words beginning with 'b.'

You may be interested to know that the curriculum does not teach letter names. This is because, strictly speaking, your child does not need to know that the letter "a" is called "A" in order for her to know that it makes the sound, "ah." If you wish to teach her the alphabet, you may wish to play her the alphabet lessons (including the alphabet song) that you will find under Categories.

More on the importance of phonics lessons can be found in Chapter 3 of Teaching Your Baby To Read.

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UNDERSTANDING THE LITTLE READER CURRICULUM

The BrillKids Little Reader curriculum provides you with everything you need for one-click learning – just sit down with your child and press play!

Please read the following overview carefully. It is designed to help you maximize your child's learning and fun with the Little Reader curriculum.

Session frequency

We recommend that you give your child her reading lessons twice per day. However, the curriculum is also suitable for use once per day, in case that is all a parent can manage. Session 2 is designed to reinforce Session 1, and is optional.

The curriculum is designed to be shown on weekdays, in case it is not convenient to teach on weekends. You can continue to teach on weekend days, should you wish. Weekends are also a good time to catch up on any lessons missed during the week.

Choice of words

The words in the BrillKids curriculum have been carefully chosen to appeal to young children. Three categories of words are shown each day (not including Pattern Phonics™). For example, on Day 1, your child will see words from the Common Animals, Parts of the Body, and Action Words categories.

There are eight core categories containing words that tend to interest young children the most. These categories are on higher rotation than the others. Each time a core category

returns, it will be given a new twist. For instance, the same list of verbs may have the suffix '-ing' added, or the words may start with a capital letter, or they may be in block caps.

Rotation of words

Every day, one word will be retired and one new word added to each category of your lessons. When the end of a category is reached, the first word retired will return. Each word will be shown a total of 12 times (or 6 times, if you are showing Session 1 only).

What's in a session

A Little Reader session can consist of five lesson segments:

A – Word Flash lesson

B – Multisensory lesson

C – Picture Flash lesson

D – Pattern Phonics™ lesson

E – Stories lesson

A (Word Flash) – Word Flash is used to teach words using the flash method. Words will auto-forward rapidly and take less than a minute to play.

B (Multisensory) – Multisensory gives you the opportunity to teach at a leisurely pace and interact with your child. You will control the speed of the lesson, and manually move between words.

C (Picture Flash) – Picture Flash is like Word Flash – except this time you are teaching the meanings of words using the flash method. This will effectively reinforce what your child has learned during B – Multisensory.

D (Pattern Phonics™) – Pattern Phonics™ introduces your child to the relationships between letters and sounds in a gradual, progressive manner. These lessons commence from Day 21 onwards.

E (Stories) – Little Reader lessons guide your child from reading single words to couplets, phrases, sentences, and finally culminating in stories, where your child will see familiar words in the context of complete stories.

Content selection

Your scheduled session will take 3 -10 minutes, but your lesson does not have to end there. Keep going as long as your child is interested. The time after a session is a good opportunity to show customized words as well as any categories that particularly interest your child.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Some of the most frequently asked questions on our site are:

- *What will my child learn with Little Reader?*
- *How do I show the lessons to my child?*
- *What are the advantages of Little Reader over other methods of teaching babies to read?*

What will my child learn with Little Reader?

Assuming you follow the entire 12-month curriculum (and continue teaching your child daily with Little Reader), your child is guaranteed to be able to read independently by the age of three.

For those using the 6-month curriculum, we guarantee that your child will learn at least 100 words in 6 months. However, you should bear in mind that younger babies may not be able to pronounce all the words that they know. In this case, the best way to see what your child has learned is to pause before playing the word's pronunciation during multisensory lessons, and watch if your child performs any of the words' actions. (For more on multisensory lessons, go to [page 10](#)).

Avoid testing your child as this may introduce pressure and a results-focused mentality to learning. Enjoying the learning process is the most important thing. Trust that your child will demonstrate what she has learned in her own time.

What are the advantages of Little Reader?

While we believe Little Reader to be the most powerful tool available for teaching young children to read, the learning system is not designed to replace other teaching methods. We recommend giving your child as much variety in learning as possible – including using flash cards, DVDs, and of course, children’s storybooks!

However, like many parents, you may be interested to know what makes the Little Reader Learning System special. Here are the main advantages of Little Reader compared with three popular alternative tools for teaching babies to read: flash cards, PowerPoint slide-shows, and DVDs.

Automatically see a different picture or video, or hear a different pronunciation each time a word is played. A DVD is always the same. With PowerPoint, you would have to manually rotate media before every lesson. With Little Reader, everything is shuffled automatically.

Switch instantly between flash and multisensory lessons. Little Reader has a Word Flash mode, Picture Flash mode, as well as three types of Multisensory modes. Change between them all with a single click of the mouse.

Teach your child using personal photos of family members, pets, and your child’s favorite toys. DVDs can’t be personalized. Little Reader makes it much easier than PowerPoint to personalize your child’s lessons.

Flash cards as rapidly as you can click your mouse – or sit back as words flash by automatically. No more fumbling with cards – Little Reader makes it easy.

Automatically keep track of how many times a word has been played. No more wondering when to retire a word – Little Reader keeps playback stats for you.

Easily move a pointer arrow under words as you read. Teach your child to read from left to right without leaving fingerprints on the screen! In multisensory mode, the pronunciation won’t play until you click your mouse.

Switch between or shuffle word colors and fonts, and background colors. Manual changes are time consuming in PowerPoint; not so with Little Reader.

Expand your word library simply by browsing for new lessons. The BrillKids Forum contains thousands of media files created by BrillKids and other parents.

Give your child high-quality language lessons – without a native teacher. Your child doesn't have to make do with your accent! Instead, download foreign language lessons created by native speakers.

How do I show the lessons to my child?

Here are some tips on making your child comfortable, and maximizing learning – and fun!

- Seat your child on your lap or next to you. Make sure the screen is at least 24 inches (60 centimeters) away and at your child's eye level.
- Prepare the learning environment by clearing away all potential distractions – TV, radio, or phone. If your child tends to grab at things, clear away the keyboard and use a wireless mouse (which – since you only need to click – can be used like a TV remote control.)
- Make sure that the learning area has sufficient lighting.
- Give the lesson when your child is in a receptive mood. Never attempt a lesson when your child is tired, sick, or disinterested.
- Be lively and have fun during lessons!

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TESTIMONIALS – EXCERPTS

For the full text and videos, visit the Testimonials page:

www.BrillKids.com > Little Reader > Testimonials



PEARL (I luv u baby)

Mom of Kael, and twins Andre and Julian | TX

I started Kael when he was about 12 months with prior flash cards. With Julian and Andre, I started at around 10 or 10 1/2 months with no prior flashcard methods. Kael loved it from the very beginning; it was literally my reading program saver. I didn't know what to do and just when I needed it I found Little Reader. I wasn't able to give Kael as much consistency as we had at the beginning of our reading journey but Little Reader allowed us to go at a slower yet steady pace. I didn't have to worry about what I did or didn't mark or have remember anything, all I had to do was play his reader every day. I didn't even have to make more words or couplets etc... which, with my pregnancy was a big blessing. I didn't have to deal with semesters which were a real treat for me when they came out. School is a pleasant word in our home and reading is a casual fun game we play, thanks to Little Reader for helping me pave the way.



ANNA (aangeles)

Mom of Ella

Ella first learned to read single words through another program. The major limitation of that program was that the baby is limited to learning only the 200 or so words that are taught in a limited number of DVDs and that's it. That's why I was so happy when I came across Little Reader. Not only does Little Reader reinforce the sight words that she already knew, but more importantly, it goes on to teach phonics, couplets, sentences, and stories. It seamlessly bridges the wide gap between sight-reading single words and reading whole books phonetically! Even though Ella got her head start learning to read by using other videos, I would say that Little Reader is the one learning tool that helped her make the big jump from reading single words to reading whole books, and that's not only in English, but in Chinese too!



BRANDI (texaslady22)

English Teacher and Professional Mother | Sulphur Springs, TX, U.S.A.

We started a Glenn Doman-inspired reading program with our son two years ago. I spent countless hours, at least two per night, handwriting cards. We bought cardstock in bulk and I could hardly stand the fumes from the permanent markers. Our son went through the cards so quickly that we could hardly keep up with him!

When I heard of Little Reader, I was skeptical. Anything that sounds too good to be true probably is. However, that's not the case with Little Reader! I can program in whatever words I want and customize them to whatever we're learning about that week. I can show pictures. I can add sound and Encyclopedic Knowledge information. Most importantly, though, my son loves it.



KEVIN AND JENNIFER (jenniferloden)

Proud parents | Commerce, GA, U.S.A.

Our 19-month-old absolutely loves this program. He will sit in front of the screen and point to the letters in each word as it appears on the screen. He can already read about 100 words, and I believe Little Reader had a lot to do with that. I can't say enough about how wonderful a program this is.



JOAN (joan)

Mom of two | Singapore

Little Reader allows you to do so much: you can show different pictures for the same word, you can easily create your own category with pictures of your baby, record your own voice, add videos... The possibilities are endless! Not only that, there's a whole wealth of great downloads created by other moms that you can simply download and use! Both my 3-year-old son and 9-month-old daughter love it!



JENNIFER (koala girl)

Loving mom of three | California, U.S.A.

I came across your website and couldn't be more pleased. I found everything I needed, and I stopped looking elsewhere since. Your site, forums and software had everything I was looking for – all in one place!



MARY ANNE (Jake)

Loving grandmother of Jake | Malta

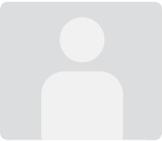
Before using Little Reader, I used to pay for my grandson's speech therapist. These days, I have been using the program continuously and I must say that it has been so much more effective and so much less expensive, too.



Cheryll (sheeber)

Proud Mommy of Twins | Shasta, California, U.S.A.

I have been using this program for my 9-month old twin girls for just 2 weeks. I was so amazed at how it captured my daughters' attention so quickly. During lessons, they try to imitate the words and sounds they hear; they raise their hands and kick every time they see and hear the baby on the screen doing the motions for hands up and kick! They always smile at me while doing it – seems like they're proud that they can do it!



AMANDA (heyblue41)

Pharmacist, and mom to Hayden and Kayla | Texas, U.S.A.

I noticed my son repeating words he heard only one time in Russian after we had used Little Reader. Now he knows how to say cat, dog and many other names of animals in about five different languages – the only exposure to most of these has been through Little Reader.



CHRIS (carpe_diem)

Grandmother of 14 | Manchester, United Kingdom

Joseph (2.5 years) said he wanted to have his rat (stuffed toy) in the Family playlist. He told me to take a picture of his rat and was delighted to see it next time he was going through the words. And this is exactly what is so great about the concept of Little Reader: the children have something that they can relate to – their OWN body, family, toys and pets – and it enables you to create personalized lessons to widen their horizons. I don't know of ANY other software that is so versatile, comprehensive, meaningful and enjoyable.



ALISON (Mum)

Mummy of Penny and Hayden | Australia

My 3-year-old "little reader" is so excited with the new dinosaur word game we made for her with her parents' voices in it; she just loves it when she hears Dad's roaring sound effects! Wow, I never expected it to be so simple to create a sound file!



GAVIN (Gavinmor)

Father | Exeter, United Kingdom

I got my son started on PowerPoint flash cards, and to keep his attention, I added animation and sounds to the picture presentations. Little Reader is the perfect solution, because it is so much easier to use and has so much more content and options – you can play the material that comes with it by default and it allows you to add more lessons easily, too! Now, I spend more time interacting with my baby rather than preparing his lessons!



AGNES (Agnesdecham)

Full-time mother | Singapore

Whenever I use Little Reader to show my girl the photos and voices of her grandpa and grandma, she always keeps on smiling and laughing. It warms my heart to know that Little Reader reminds her of her grandparents and the happy times that she spends with them.



ARTHI (AnuShyam)

Loving mother of Anu and Shyam, Infocomm Lecturer | Singapore

I've found that Little Reader serves both my kids' different needs. The younger one, aged 2, enjoys the Animal Categories where there is a real picture of the animal accompanied by the sound it makes. He can now recognize words even before the picture comes up! My elder child, aged 3.5, enjoys more complex categories like Flags, Planets and 7 Wonders of the World. She shows interest in reading outside our Little Reader sessions, evident especially when we visit the library. She recalled the nice pictures in the 7 wonders category and wanted a book with more about them.



MIMI (mimi pageot)

I am so happy that I found your website and started using Little Reader with my two boys. I have had the opportunity to compare your product with another similar one (claiming similar results), and I have proven that yours is better. Since Little Reader is always accessible, my boys want to use it all the time. And most importantly, you know they're not memorizing – when you can use different words, or a different sequence, you know they know the words. Before I used Little Reader, my 3-year-old would not sound out words. Now he's grasping every opportunity to read!



VANESSA (nadia0801)

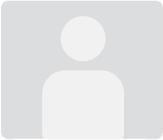
Mom to a blessed baby, Cameron | Quezon City, Philippines

Little Reader has helped me colossally! I was just starting to discover the Glenn Doman method and this software takes the reading program to a whole new level. It makes teaching my baby more organized and accessible. It also offers the very essential customization option to adjust to each child. I personally like the user interface, because it's simple and easy to use. And with all the downloadable content, I'd say it is the BEST program for infant learning today!



JANICE (Janice Bolima)

I've been using Little Reader for 3 months now, and my baby and I make time to read through the lessons every day. I've always seen our Little Reader lessons as bonding time with my baby. She truly loves seeing the flash cards on screen, and it amazes her each time to hear the sound effects and pronunciations, as well as see the words and colorful pictures.



(Haha)

Mother of an autistic son | Singapore

My boy is turning 3 years old in two days' time. He was diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder recently. Little Reader has been a way to help us to teach him something that will benefit him in life – communication. It is not only an enjoyable program for kids but also a practical tool for special-needs children's education. It brings hope to my family and I really want to see more and more mums and kids benefit from this program.

Eager to teach with Little Reader but don't know where to start?

We understand how overwhelming the process of starting to teach your child to read can be – that's why we created this short introduction to teaching with Little Reader.

The guide provides all the information you need, including such chapters as:

- **Getting Started With Little Reader**
- **Understanding the Little Reader Curriculum**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**

Get started with Little Reader today, and discover the joy of teaching reading the easy way!