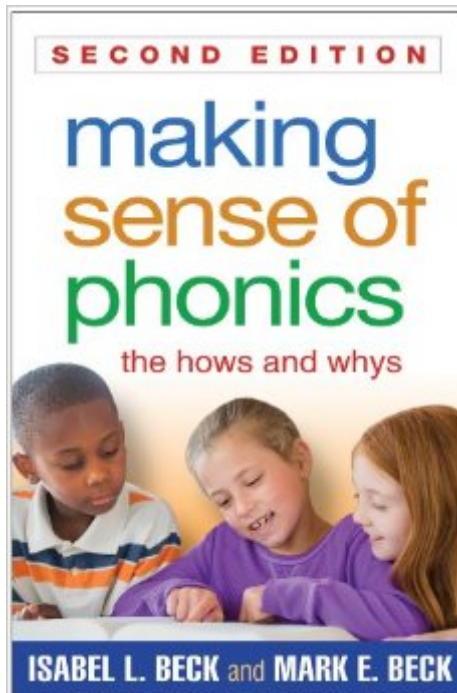


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Making Sense Of Phonics, Second Edition: The Hows And Whys



Synopsis

This bestselling book provides indispensable tools and strategies for explicit, systematic phonics instruction in K-3. Teachers learn effective ways to build students' decoding skills by teaching letter-sound relationships, blending, word building, multisyllabic decoding, fluency, and more. The volume is packed with engaging classroom activities, many specific examples, and research-based explanations. It offers a complete phonics assessment and clear guidelines for sequencing instruction to give every student a strong foundation for reading. More than 30 reproducible forms and word lists are included in the appendices. Purchasers get access to a Web page where they can download and print the reproducible materials in a convenient 8 1/2" x 11" size and find a wealth of supplemental teaching resources. **New to This Edition***Six additional chapters covering key topics, including assessment, phonemic awareness, orthography, and automaticity.*A complete phonics assessment with administering and scoring guidelines.*Downloadable forms and word lists, plus a companion website with rich supplemental resources, including word/syllable cards, assessment tools, and illustrated stories featuring target words, which teachers can project or print for classroom use.*More classroom examples and "Your Turn" activities, as well as expanded word lists. See also *Bringing Words to Life, Second Edition: Robust Vocabulary Instruction and Creating Robust Vocabulary: Frequently Asked Questions and Extended Examples*, by Isabel L. Beck, Margaret G. McKeown, and Linda Kucan, which provide essential tools for K-12 vocabulary instruction.

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Customer Reviews

I have ten years of teaching experience, from pre-school to third grade. It has been easy teaching about 80% of my students to read, over the years. They respond well to my small guided reading groups, carefully planned literacy centers, and limited but focused phonics instruction. But the other 10 percent%? Well, they have needed something different, and this book, "Making Sense of Phonics," is it. Isabel Beck strikes a perfect balance in this book between theory, research, and application. I read the book over a weekend after attending a seminar about how brain imaging and neuroscience is helping to make sense of the process to learn to read. Beck's research was discussed at length and quite convincing, and so I bought the book, read it, and began teaching lessons using her protocol to the 6 lowest readers in my class. Results? After just three weeks I already note marked improvement in these students' ability to sound out words, blend sounds, and make the connection between the letters on the page and the sound they produce with their mouth. It's fast paced and simple to do, once you've taught just a few lessons. If they continue at this rate, I will be completely sold on it and plan to present to the primary teachers at my school in hopes of convincing others to use it, as needed. I think that a parent could just as easily do this with their child as well; in fact, it could be even better because the child would receive that one on one attention. It does seem pretty important to stick to Beck's suggestions regarding how to emphasize letter sound correspondance to all parts of the word as opposed to just initial placement. Bottom line, if your student or child is a struggling reader and you've tried lots of things and are going nuts because they know a word on one page and forget in on the next or they just look at the first letter and then make a guess, then this is the teaching strategy for you!

I have been teaching for 5 years, and this is by far the best book on teaching decoding/phonics I have read so far! A must read for all elementary school teachers! It is useful for both whole class instruction and small group intervention. It has an entire phonics/decoding curriculum, which goes from knowing a few sounds and beginning to read CVC words, to how to teach students to read multi-syllable words. The lessons/ activities are easy to produce and implement in the classroom with minimal prep. There is a partner website with all of the reproducibles ready to print. As I read each chapter, I have been using the strategies/ structured lessons/activities with my students and they love it. I can see progress already. I highly recommend it!!

Making Sense of Phonics is an extremely important addition to the field of early reading. This highly-readable and practical book provides teachers with the instructional routines and strategies

critical to teaching students how to decode words efficiently. This book should be required reading for all teacher candidates at colleges of education around the country and would offer a great refresher course in phonics for current elementary teachers. Dr. Beck's brilliant work continues to move the field forward and improve the quality of education for our young learners.

In this book, Beck outlines procedures for essential beginning reading activities such as letter-sound correspondences, blending, and word building. I really liked how this book focused on classroom practice, and how the author applies every concept to real students. Beck also supplies appendices to supply the materials needed to make your own centers that were used in the classroom practice examples. I really liked the idea for word pockets, where students place the letter where they heard the sound (beginning, middle, or end.) Also, now each one of my students now has their own set of alphabet cards. When we have free time, they are busy putting letters together to make a word.

This is the book used by the schools in my county. I bought it to help my daughter prepare for a more advanced school program. We used magnetic letters (like the ones for on the fridge) and an old cookie sheet. She thought the activities were really fun. Using manipulatives is helpful to many young learners. The rest of it's kinda dry if you're not an educator, but it does give you some good ideas for reinforcing phonics. Example activity: the child puts a certain set of letters on their "board" You tell them to put s - u - n and ask them to read the word. Then you tell them to replace the s with an r and read the resulting word (run). Then they can replace the n with a b and read that word (rub). They can replace the u with an o (rob) then replace the r with an s (sob) and so forth.

One of the finest phonics books in print. It is very easy to teach and virtually foolproof. Instead of teaching student to sound-out words with onset and rime (b-at), Beck teaches cumulative blending (ba-t). This is a superior method of teaching children to read with phonics.

This is a great book. It gives the classroom teacher and/or specialist a way to provide direct instruction that is structured and systematic. One of the big ideas in this book is how important it is to provide students with practice in several rules at a time.

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