

Article B "Decipher that Code & Read"

Article B Phonics: Two important Programs A review of what is Phonics is appropriate at this point. What exactly is phonics? Phonics is the method by which children learn the letters and the sounds associated with these letters at the same time; Phonics is knowing that sounds and letters have a relationship — it's that simple, and that complex. It is the link between what we say and what we can read and write. "Children need very explicit instructions on how the letters on a page correspond to the spoken word," explains Margie Gillis, Ed.D., project director of reading research studies at Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, Connecticut. A child who has mastered phonics can connect the sounds he knows with letters, then put them together to make words. (And then he can put words together to read sentences, and so on.) How is phonics taught? Systematically and sequentially. Teachers give children plenty of practice before moving on. Your child will read short, easy books, containing the particular letter sounds or words she's working on. "Children need frequent opportunities to read aloud with the teacher guiding and correcting them," says Lynn Gordon, Ph.D., assistant professor of reading and literacy at California State University, Northridge, and chair of the International Reading Association's Phonics Special Interest Group. And there should be lots of writing, to reinforce the sound-print connection.

We'll examine two popular programs and begin our discussion on Phonetic Rock "Hooked on Phonics" and "No Child Left Behind"; Here after known as **HOP & NCLB**. **HOP** was probably the most hyped reading method. Millions were spent on the phrase "It Works for me"; a hip phrase giving reading a street cred. which is the closest the average American can get to Hip Hop or want to get close with all the Ebonics that goes with it. After a while the jargon is hard to loose. Having come up against HOP when PR was coming out as a cassette rather than a two record set., they were aggressive and controlling but handled business in a professional manner. HOP was expensive at the time thus separating the masses between those who can pay & those who couldn't adding resentment to the mix. The system did work and I believe because it was Phonics oriented. The Method began using cassettes and flash cards. Words and sounds are practiced over ordinary musical cadences; the program covered the reading experience up thru the 3rd grade. Now, The "Hooked On" label now covers math, Spanish, is international and the product ideas seem endless. Irresponsibly over-marketed some say, led to its downfall & suit against it by the FTC during the 1st Bush presidency. Probably because they were about ready to come out with the NCLB act and didn't want any unnecessary competition. The original company Gateway was sold and portions purchased by Kinder Care & Sylvan Method which is advertised on the HOP website. The newest version of HOP is put out by Smartville Prods., LLC, at a rather costly price with 7 different parts including 4 books, 3 CD's and a Parents Guide. **NCLB** was the brainchild of the Bush Administration under the guidance of the Secy of Education, Ron Paige, an African American. as is Mr. Weaver who is the present President of the NEA. The National Education Association's Reauthorization of the program comes this year. In Emily Richmond's article, "Schools Lack Solid Foundation" which appeared in the Las Vegas Sun, in May, 2007, states that Mr. Weaver had complained several years ago and sent in some nine recommendations to the Secretary of Education who did not respond. However, since then the Present Secy, of Ed., Margaret Spellings has offered new accommodations for compliance in certain area, including testing special ed students. One of Weavers big concerns was that once the data is collected and the problem areas are identified, what then? What resources are available to help these schools help these students? At one point, Mr. Paige called the NEA a "terrorist" organization. NCLB, under the leadership of Ron Paige was a sweeping educational reform that took effect in 2002; the NEA began to find itself standing alone in opposition. Supporters of the NCLB see the law as reasonable and its goals achievable. In an article "How Clark County Schools Measure up" the information source, the Clark County School District presented a list of all of the schools in Clark County along with a chart to show how progress is to be measured. I'm only concerned with elementary reading so I'll confine my discussion to the elementary level. (my example would not print) There are approximately 200 elementary schools in Clark County. The yearly progress is measured by a well-defined chart that appeared in the Review Journal of July 27, 2007. Unfortunately I don't have the writers name. There are nine (9) categories. Categories range from adequate where most Elementary schools appear to be. to needs improvement year 5. The program is being reexamined and, hopefully, its progress & effect has been studied. Perhaps new reforms will improve its effectiveness. I would presume that 6 years would be enough time to adequately reach useful conclusions. based on 6 years worth of data. The No Child Left Behind Goals are: **1 Phonemic awareness**: the ability to hear, identify, and play with individual sounds - or phonemes in spoken words. **2 Phonics**: the relationship between the letters of written language and the sounds of spoken language; **3 Fluency**: the capacity to read text accurately and quickly. **4 Vocabulary**: the words students must know to communicate effectively and **5 Comprehension**, the ability to understand and gain meaning from what has been read Mr. Weaver believes that accountability is the key to success & with that comes a sound economic structure and tax base, adequate and equitable student funding and a school system with enough personnel, resources and facilities to meet the requirements of federal law. The NCLB process appears to begin with a description of specific problems to be identified and the solutions there to are to be outlined. All of this is to be measured annually with assumed progress to be guaranteed or else; But it's obvious that the Gov't wants children to be able to read with efficiency by the end of Grade 3. This is an awesome task. The **Phonetic Rock Educational System** hereafter known as PRES, by Emily L. Woody, we believe, meets the criteria that has been establish for success. When one reviews the goals of the NCLB One realizes that Teachers are the only ones, really, who know what students need & when they need it. PRES was developed by a school teacher with over 20 plus years of experience. "All they need to do is listen" and they will learn. Only one CDRom is needed because there's only 26 letters in the alphabet. One of the

