

Teaching Reading

We think teaching our children to read has been the easiest part of homeschooling! It's also so vitally important, we dedicate our children's first year of schooling almost exclusively to reading instruction. We call it kindergarten! ☺

Why is it so easy? The biggest reason is that God providentially led us to a wonderful set of books by author and educator Ruth Beechick. We highly recommend that you buy these books, too! The set is called *The Three R's*, and it includes:

1. *An Easy Start in Arithmetic*
2. *A Strong Start in Language*
3. *A Home Start in Reading*

The entire set retails for \$12.00, although you're likely to find it cheaper online (check out <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0940319063/anneshomeyplace>).

Mrs. Beechick's advice is thorough yet easy to follow. So let's describe for you a kindergarten program based upon these three little books and just a handful of other resources. You would likely need to purchase:

- The Three R's*, by Ruth Beechick. Read through each of these books before you begin teaching kindergarten.
- Get Ready for the Code, Get Set for the Code, Go for the Code*, by Nancy Hall (Educators Publishing Service, 1-800-225-5750, <http://www.epsbooks.com>). These are optional workbooks that our children really enjoyed. Note that they only cover consonant sounds, not vowels. We assigned two or three pages from these books each day, covering one letter per week.
- Bob Books First!: Level A, Set 1*, by Bobby Lynn Maslen (Scholastic, Inc., <http://www.bobbooks.com>). These easy readers gave our kids the confidence to start reading on their own. These are the only "official" readers we've used. When our kids could read the Bob books, they could generally begin trying to read simple books off our bookshelves or from the library.

You could easily teach reading without all these resources, except for maybe *The Three R's* by Ruth Beechick. As for readers, you could even download free readers from the Internet. See our website for some possibilities, at <http://www.AnnesSchoolPlace.com/languagearts.htm>.

Other kindergarten teaching suggestions may be found on our website, at <http://www.anneshomeyplace.com/homeschooling%20kindergarten.htm>.

A Possible Teaching Schedule

Week	Letter Sound Taught	Pages to do in <i>Explode the Code</i> primers	Instructions/Activities in <i>A Home Start in Reading</i>	<i>Bob Books First!</i> to Read
Before school			pp. 1-5	
1	Ff	<i>Get Ready for the Code</i> , pp. 1-12	pp. 6-7	
2	Bb	pp. 13-24		
3	Mm	pp. 25-38		
4	Kk	pp. 39-52		
5	Tt	pp. 53-64		
6	Rr	pp. 65-78		
7	Aa		pp. 8-10	
8	Pp	<i>Get Set for the Code</i> , pp. 1-14		
9	Ss	pp. 15-28		Book 1
10	Nn	pp. 29-40		
11	Jj	pp. 41-52		
12	Hh	pp. 53-66		
13	Dd	pp. 67-78		
14	Cc	<i>Go for the Code</i> , pp. 1-14		Book 2
15	Oo			
16	Ll	pp. 15-28		
17	Gg	pp. 29-42		Book 3
18	Ii			Book 4
19	Ww	pp. 43-52		Book 5
20	Yy	pp. 53-62		Book 6
21	Vv	pp. 63-72		Book 7
22	Uu			Book 8
23	Zz	pp. 73-82		Book 9
24	Ee			
25	Qu/qu	pp. 83-94		Book 10
26	Xx	pp. 95-104		Book 11
27	Consonant pairs		pp. 11-15	Book 12
28				
29				
30				
31	Sight Words		pp. 15-16	
32				
33				
34				
35				
36				