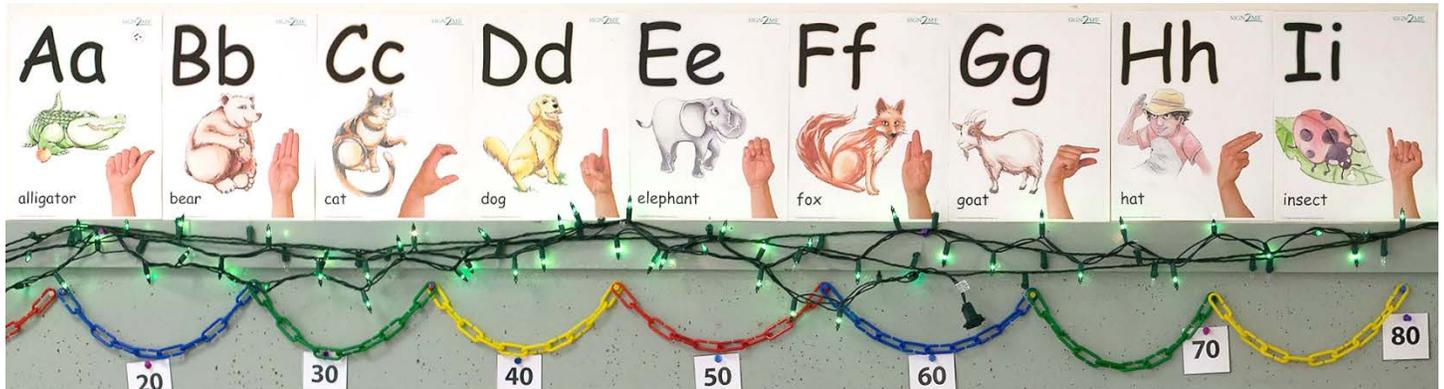


Nellie Edge Online Seminar #1: Multisensory ABC and Phonics Immersion

FAQ: *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* Program
Updated 2017



1. **Does Sign2Me Early Learning have trainers who will come to our school?** We at Nellie Edge Seminars have made it easy for teachers to study this innovative ABC Phonics program. Study [Nellie Edge Online Seminar #1 Multisensory ABC and Phonics Immersion: Building the Reading Brain](#) and peruse the ABC Phonics page at www.nellieedge.com to learn more and to understand the power of this accelerated literacy model. The online videos and resources provide everything teachers need to be successful. They just need to add high expectations, intentional systematic instruction, joyful multisensory teaching, and engage Parents as Partners.
2. **Is there a scope and sequence for your ABC Phonics program?** The [Step-by-Step Strategies for ABC Phonics Mastery in Kindergarten](#) was written as a flexible guide to answer just such a need. In preschool and kindergarten there is often a 4-year developmental span of children's readiness to acquire new skills. (Multisensory teaching meets the needs of these diverse learners!) The socio-economic level of the school and quality of parent involvement also greatly impacts children's learning. However, the biggest determinant of how quickly children master ABC Phonics skills is a passionate teacher with high expectations who has mastered fingerspelling and the sign language from the *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* book and program. These teachers prove that systematic and intentional instruction accelerates learning! There is no one just right "scope and sequence" or set of strategies that fits all learners at home or at school. Many preschool children who have been taught our *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sing, and Read!* song come in to kindergarten confidently knowing their letters and sounds. Some kindergarten teachers take the ABC Phonics Challenge: [20 Days to Teach 26 Letters and Sounds](#) with great success. They use the instruction model documented on Nellie Edge Online Seminar #1. Children who need additional support are identified early and receive special intervention strategies that are consistent with our joyful learning model.
3. **How does this ABC Phonics program align with the new Common Core State Standards?** With its emphasis on accelerated mastery of letters and sounds, vocabulary development, speaking skills, rigorous writing standards, and the use of nonfiction books, it is a perfect fit with Common Core!



This informational ABC Phonics book is written to develop concise directional language and rich vocabulary. Children work collaboratively and learn to speak audibly and express their new skills. Finally, students are encouraged to conduct research: reading, writing, and drawing on their chosen ABC Phonics animal, all this within a joyful learning experience rich in the arts with parents as partners! Some of our kindergartners actually conduct online research which they document with writing and drawing. (See example on our ABC Phonics tab.)

4. ***How do you first introduce this ABC book to children and how many new alphabet letters do you introduce per week?***

Introduce ***ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!*** as you would any quality picture book: Kindergarten Friends: "We have an ***important book*** called ***ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign and Read!*** Let's say the title (point under the words) together... What do you notice about the front cover? Let's look at the back cover. This book will teach us all of the letters and sounds from a to z. We get to learn fingerspelling and how to use American Sign Language, the language deaf people use. We even get to learn about animals like alligators, bears, and cats. This ABC book was written by author and kindergarten teacher Nellie Edge and illustrated by Gaelan Kelly. The title page has that information again. (Read.) Let's look closely and sing the first page together. Now let's read how to make the sign. Repeat after me, line by line... Review the song A-D often throughout the day."

5. ***How does this program meet the goals of the newest federal "Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)?"*** This program is worthy of children's time and involvement, consistent with best early literacy research, and has proven effective in countless preschool, kindergarten classrooms, and homes. The personalized meaningful experiences gained from multisensory teaching rich in the arts will support a strong family literacy component. The assessment piece is authentic and ongoing. The Response to Intervention (RTI) component provides more "good first teaching" using the same engaging multisensory teaching and learning strategies. This program features multiethnic children from all around the world. Thus it meets the vision of the ESSA.

Key Benefits:

- Delivers an elegantly simple yet powerful set of accelerated learning tools
- Provides a multisensory learning experience for English language learners
- Engages children with a "real world" learning adventure
- Comes as an affordable program with many FREE teaching supports
- Differentiates learning naturally. RTI is built into program design
- Includes a strong "Parents as Partners" component with 5 complimentary YouTube tutorial videos for promoting family literacy
- Provides delightful and memorable performances (GREAT when captured on video!)

- Connects with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
- Develops Common Core vocabulary, reading, speaking and listening skills
- And most importantly . . . ABC Phonics is great learning fun for virtually all children!
- Supports the new ESSA goals of parent involvement and arts-fusion.

We believe this is the only ABC Phonics book and program available that features multiethnic children and is written as both a beginning reader and a springboard for animal study and vocabulary acquisition. (See information on our A-Z Science Notebook information download.)

This is also the only ABC Phonics program that offers a FREE teachers' guide, FREE ASL instructional video clips for teachers and parent involvement, and FREE dictionary pages, mini ASL charts and Family Reference charts. Our publisher is committed to making the program accessible for family literacy across all socio-economic levels.

6. ***How is your ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read! program different from other large commercial ABC programs?*** Teachers tell us they love this approach because it is meaningful, authentic, multisensory, supports English Language Learners, and it develops life skills. By taking advantage of the musical brain: "singing, saying and doing" we dramatically improve retention of new information. (No consumable workbook pages here!) This is not a "cutesy" short-term strategy but rather, an engaging literary arts experience that also teaches American Sign Language, vocabulary, and performance skills. Joyful learning for a lifetime.
7. ***How do you introduce the Science Research Notebook?***
We send it home with the first child who masters the ***ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!*** book and who has parents eager for additional home learning challenges. *You get to become a researcher: Which animal do you want to study?* Read the parent letters and the additional information linked to our ABC Phonics page to get started. Be ready to be amazed!
8. ***How do you use multiple copies of the book for guided reading?***
There are three ways to read a book and this book engages emergent, beginning, and proficient students in the reading process!

"Memory reading" using "children of the world" images and key phonics symbols is where most children begin. Teachers refer to the [vertical chart](#) for large group choral "Sing, Sign, and Read!" experiences. Multiple copies of the book allow small guided reading groups to point and study the letters, pictures, graphic elements and words on each page. Children build close observation skills and reading motivation.

Fingerspelling and sign language acts as a bridge to reading comprehension. More proficient readers in guided reading groups of 5 or 6 will draw on their familiarity with the language to read with surprising fluency. (The book language has been read repeatedly with students signing the song, and then echo reading the descriptive language line by line.)

Children enjoy the challenge of tracking the words of the sign language description on the lines of text on the bottom of each page. They will echo read with the same intonation,

syntax and dramatic flair that their teacher uses. More proficient readers love the challenge of reading and performing this ABC Phonics song picture book.

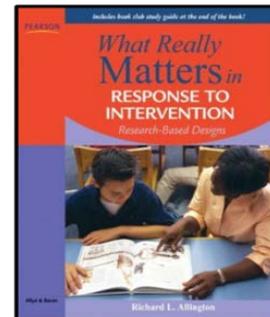
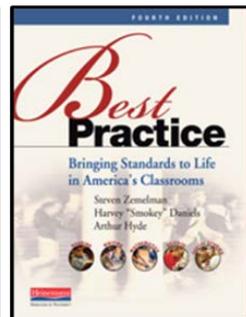
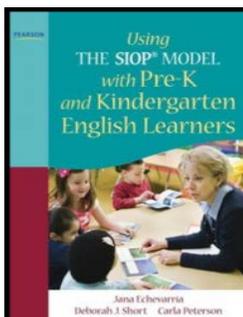
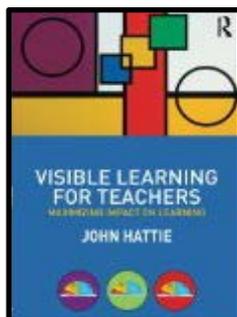
9. ***Our school doesn't allow YouTube videos, and I want to learn right along with my students. Will the instructional DVDs be available separately?*** You spoke...and our publisher listened! The new video (which won the Creative Child's Magazine 2016 DVD of the Year for Kid's Educational DVDs award) is available from [Sign2Me](#) and it includes a **slower, full ABC Phonics tutorial** that is not available on YouTube.
10. ***How do I purchase the single book pages to make the large ABC charts?*** We actually take apart two books and trim the perforated sides, glue four pages onto each side of green railroad board, and have them laminated. I do not know of any ABC book with pages sold separately. An alternative and less expensive teaching visual is to attach the [vertical ABC chart](#) close to your instructional area so you can have your hands free to sing, sign, and read!
11. ***Is this [ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!](#) program appropriate for preschool children and Head Start?*** YES! It's absolutely perfect for both! Teachers, parents, and Head Start children love this musical multisensory approach to alphabet and phonics learning. It is simply many children's favorite ABC book! Our local Head Start saw a dramatic increase in letter knowledge in students entering kindergarten who had used this program and engaged "Parents as Partners" in using the YouTube videos to practice over the summer.
12. ***Where do I get the miniature ABC charts and dictionary pages?*** These and many other FREE resources are available (for teachers using the ABC Phonics program) on the ABC Phonics tab at [nellieedge.com](#).
13. ***Is there a Teacher's Guide to your Multisensory ABC and Phonics Immersion program?*** Yes, the comprehensive Teacher's Guide is a [complimentary download](#) from the ABC Phonics tab at [www.nellieedge.com](#). *Proven Strategies for ABC Phonics Mastery: A Teaching Progression for Optimum Learning* is available as a download on [www.nellieedge.com](#). Additional "best practices" are documented in our [weekly blogs](#). Use the search feature for "ABC Phonics."
14. ***What is your research base for using sign language with non-hearing-impaired students?*** We have compiled a 12-page PDF: [What is Your Research Base for ABC Phonics?](#) It is found on our ABC Phonics webpage under Resources.

One researcher who specifically addressed this topic and published her findings is Dr. Marilyn Daniels in her book, *Dancing with Words: Signing for Hearing Children's Literacy*. We also draw on the neuroscience research: There are decades of research on the power of multisensory teaching and learning. Here are some of our favorite resources on building the reading brain:

- ***Building the Reading Brain***, by Pat Wolfe and Pam Nevills, 2009
- ***Mind, Brain, and Education: Neuroscience Implications for the Classroom***, by David Sousa, 2012
- ***Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*** by Carol Dweck, 2007

- We also refer you to Dr. John Hattie's synthesis of 15 years of educational research. Our approach to ABC phonics Immersion reflects the kinds of engaging and visible teaching that raises student achievement
- *Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximizing Impact on Learning* by John Hattie, 2011
- *The SLOP Model with Pre-K and Kindergarten English Learners* by Jana J. Echevarria, Deborah J. Short and Carla Peterson, 2011
- *Best Practice: Bringing Standards to Life in America's Classrooms* by Steven Zemelman and Harvey "Smokey" Daniels, 2012
- *What Really Matters in Response to Intervention* by Richard L. Allington, 2008

Finally, I refer you to language acquisition and early literacy research. There is strong agreement that the more actively engaged a child is in authentic, "real world" learning the stronger the student gains.



15. **Why did you choose to use the alligator symbol when the word apple has a purer "ă" sound?** Actually you will notice we did put an apple on the "A" page too, however the alligator symbol is a much more engaging and memorable image when signed. *We say a/"a-a-a"/alligator elongating the initial vowel. And we play with language stretching out the ă sound and pronounce the "li" as the second syllable.*

16. **I didn't know there were FREE instructional video clips! Why isn't it highlighted in the book somewhere?**

It is referenced on the back cover, but thank you for the great idea. We need to highlight this important benefit on the front of the book!

17. **The only thing I don't love about your ABC Phonics book is the spiral binding. When is the book coming out in hardcover?** Plans are in the works. However for classroom instructional purposes the spiral binding makes this book very flexible.

18. **Why does the song on the CD go so fast?**

Our goal with ABC and Phonics Immersion is for rapid recall of letters and sounds. We introduce 4-8 new letters and sounds each week, first talking, demonstrating, exploring the book, and practicing very slowly (without the music). The new *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* ASL Tutorial DVD with a slower version of the full song tutorial is used by many teachers with great success the beginning of the year. After several weeks, you will be amazed at how many kindergartners will keep up with the original music CD or video—especially if they are practicing at home and at school as intended with this program. Rapid recall is how we train and challenge the reading brain! See blog: [20 Days to 26 Letters and Sounds](#).

19. **Aren't some of the children just memorizing the song?** "Magical memory reading" is a phase that most children go through as they construct their knowledge of how print works.

We teach students to touch the letters and words. Then, with repetition, practice, and explicit instruction they move from reading the pictures to reading the text.

- 20. How do you assess for mastery of letters and sounds?** Each child is systematically and individually assessed for rapid recall of letters and sounds. Teachers use a large ABC Mastery Chart or small page of random letters. Online assessment forms are available. Mastery is celebrated! We identify students needing additional support early in the year.

You will find the complimentary Teacher's Guide shares vignettes and teaching tips from different teachers using the program. Also read the article, *20 Days to 26 Letters and Sounds*. See the Nellie Edge Online Seminar, *Multisensory ABC and Phonics Immersion: Building the Reading Brain*.

- 21. I noticed you used a simple, old fashioned melody rather than a jazzy modern one. Why?** The classic Mozart melody used in our *ABC Phonics* song is known around the world to most adults and even young children. From lullabies to ABC songs, it's memorable and worthy of children's listening and it's easy to sing. We wanted to start with what was known and comfortable; with the rhythm and syntax that supports English Language Learners. We take advantage of how the brain learns best!

- 22. How do I get copies of the FREE Family ABC Phonics Chart to give to all of my families?**

Again, the Family Reference Chart is generously provided by our publisher Sign2Me Early Learning for teachers using our ABC Phonics program as a FREE download on our ABC Phonics page at www.nellieedge.com and at www.sign2me.com.

- 23. Does your program have flashcards for drills?**

There are several ways you can use the program components to create flashcards even though they are not currently available as a separate product. Teachers have cut apart the vertical or horizontal Wall Chart to create flash cards and have cut apart the Family Reference Chart. Each ABC image can be backed and laminated. See examples on our ABC Phonics tab.

- 24. Which wall poster do you recommend—the vertical or horizontal?**

Look at your wall space and your teaching style. Some teachers prefer a vertical chart to post on the door or set next to them in the instructional areas. In preschools and childcare settings we often see a horizontal chart posted at children's eye level in the reading nook or dramatic play center. It all depends on how you use the environment.

- 25. How long does it take to get the ABC Phonics books and Wall Charts after we order them?** Most orders are shipped from the Sign2Me Early Learning facilities on the next business day.

- 26. Does Sign2Me Early Learning accept school purchase orders?** Yes, they are happy to do so! Just email purchase orders to orders@sign2me.com.

- 27. My district needs to know more about the phonics portion of your program. What is the follow through?**

First, see the response to #4 for ABC Phonics Mastery. Additional phonics connections are documented in *Kindergarten Writing and the Common Core: Joyful Pathways to Accelerated Literacy* by Nellie Edge. We expect automaticity with letters and sounds within the first 20 days of explicit kindergarten instruction. During this time we are also using a comprehensive writing workshop model to systematically teach and reinforce phonics skills through handwriting, multisensory sight word strategies and short, explicit phonics writing lessons. Best practices are documented in the Nellie Edge Online Seminar #1 *Multisensory ABC and Phonics Immersion: Building the Reading Brain*.

- 28. I notice the prices for the ABC Phonics book often change. When can I get the best discount?** Sign up for the FREE newsletter at Sign2Me Early Learning (www.sign2me.com) and you'll know when specials are offered. There is usually a "special" before school starts.
- 29. This is such a beautiful and innovative ABC book. Why isn't it available at my local library for parents to check out?** Libraries order hard cover books with a spine for easy shelving and access. An expanded hardcover version of this beautiful book may be available in 2018, so check your local library again!
- 30. What is the discount for large district orders (20 or more of a single item)?** Contact Sign2Me Early Learning (877-744-6263) for your specific needs and they'll be delighted to assist!
- 31. Is your book available in Spanish? How is it used with English Language Learners?** While not yet available in Spanish, English Language Learners enjoy the engaging visual support and will often use American Sign Language before they speak English. ASL serves as a very strong bridge between spoken languages for ESL learners. It serves them well AS they are learning English but can also be valuable to them for the rest of their life! Note that ASL is the third-most-used language in the US and the book features multicultural children.
- 32. What is the minimum I need to buy in order to make the program work?** You need at least one copy of the *ABC Phonics* book (ideally multiple copies!), one large vertical wall chart for quick teaching reference and at least one set of individual a-z wall cards. Many teachers also purchase the large horizontal wall chart to cut apart for making their own flash cards. After you peruse the ABC Phonics page on our website and study Nellie Edge Online Seminar #1, you'll see how these pieces—along with the FREE family letters and instructional videos—all work well together to form one comprehensive, integrated learning program. Teachers will also value the benefits of the award-winning *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* DVD with the slower version of the song that Sign2me.com has created!
- 33. When are you going to create an iPad app for students to use for "at home" practice? The parents of my students would love to have one and we could use it on our iPads!** Our publisher is exploring this option. Keep reading our weekly blogs for announcements.

