

What the Experts Say About the *Read, Write & Type!* Learning System

*There are some good products available to develop reading skills. Among all the commercially available computer software claiming to offer reading instruction, we like **Read, Write and Type!** the best.*

from **Straight Talk About Reading,**
Susan L. Hall & Louisa C. Moats, Ed.D.

*We have been using **Read, Write & Type!**™ to support small group instruction in reading for first grade children who are identified as at risk for reading failure. This project is being conducted with support from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. With its emphasis on phonological awareness, letter-sound knowledge and phonetic decoding in reading and spelling, **Read, Write & Type!**™ is entirely consistent with recent discoveries that underline the importance of these skills to the growth of good reading ability.*

***Read, Write & Type!** is an excellent example of the very best in computer applications to provide support for children learning to read. The program not only incorporates the most important principles of beginning reading instruction, but it has also brought them together in a package that is very engaging for children. The great strength of **Read, Write & Type!** is that it provides explicit and systematic instruction in reading and spelling strategies in the context of meaningful and engaging writing and reading activities.*

Joseph Torgesen, Ph.D.
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There are two effective approaches to preventing reading difficulties; both are meant for young children who have early signs of reading problems. In one, a highly structured and comprehensive reading curriculum is provided to an entire class of at-risk children. ...In the second approach, at-risk children receive a combination of the regular evidence-based reading instruction with their class plus an additional thirty-to-forty-five-minute period of supplemental reading instruction. The supplemental programs that I prefer are intense, highly focused on specific basic reading skills, and taught in small groups.

*...**The Read, Write & Type Learning System** is helpful as a supplemental program in first grade classrooms, or it can be used as homework to reinforce basic phonological skills. The program is multi-sensory: Children learn to associate a specific sound with a letter and a finger tap on the keyboard. As an added benefit, children become familiar with the computer keyboard at an early age.*

*...**The Read, Write & Type Learning System**...provides systematic, explicit instruction in basic phonologic skills and emphasizes writing as a route to reading. Results with at-risk first graders are impressive in at least one study. Working in groups of three, children who received such computer support over the course of a school year significantly improved both their reading accuracy and their fluency. Using RWT, the researchers said, would result in only about 2 to 4 percent of children leaving first grade as poor readers.*

RWT also demonstrates that as early as first grade, children can successfully learn keyboarding skills. These skills provide a foundation for other activities such as word processing. This is particularly important for dyslexic readers, many of whom have poor handwriting (and spelling) and "write" much better with a keyboard than a pencil.

Sally Shaywitz, M.D.
From Overcoming Dyslexia
