

Phonics First

An excellent new series and it's Australian!!

Phonics First is five comprehensive, fully integrated, beginning reading programs that are carefully structured to teach students the word attack, comprehension and spelling skills they need to become effective readers. It's fully interactive and has Australian voices and spelling.

This software is suitable for all beginning readers and is very useful for students who experience dyslexia and other reading difficulties. It is also a valuable resource for 'English as a Second Language' students.



Phonics First goes from the earliest stage of letter-sound recognition to increasingly sophisticated phonics skills. Each series consists of a number of multi-lesson units and an achievable attainment test at the end of each program. Each lesson begins by reinforcing the vowels and consonants. Then it introduces the phonic skills for the lesson with activities and games. At each level, basic sight words are introduced and reinforced through games, stories and comprehension activities. The interactive nature of instruction ensures that students remain highly motivated. The learning activities are fun and give instant feedback and achievement recognition. Carefully structured stories and comprehension activities are used to reinforce the skills mastered.

In **Phonics First 1**, students learn the sounds of the letters of the alphabet and, through a variety of activities, are taught phonemic awareness. They are also taught simple blending techniques and assessment activities complete the program.

In **Phonics First 2**, students master basic single letter-sound relationships. They start by consolidating their knowledge of the sounds the letters make, and then go on to blend these together to read simple three-sound words.

In **Phonics First 3**, students master beginning and ending blends. For example, 'nd' as in 'wind', 'tr' as in 'truck'. The acquisition of these skills is reinforced by reading stories based on these phonics skills. Answering some simple questions based on the stories then challenges their comprehension ability.

In **Phonics First 4**, students learn consonant digraphs, as well as the rules for long vowel sounds. Students also learn the rules when the letter 'c' says 's' as in 'cent' and when the letter 'g' says 'g' as in 'gent'. Again structured stories and comprehension activities complete the unit.

In **Phonics First 5**, students learn increasingly complex sounds or diphthongs. They also learn the vowel sounds with 'r' and how to recognise silent letters in words.

This is a very good series of programs for struggling readers. The presentation and reinforcement of each lesson is excellent. The screen is not too busy so students with poor concentration spans are not distracted. The graphics are colourful with each screen created around an underwater theme which most children love. The voices are very clear and pleasant to listen to. Best of all, each program is excellent value at only \$AUD54.95 (inc. GST).

Thoroughly recommended especially for those with limited budgets.

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