



## Phonics

*Funnix* teaches explicit phonics, the approach that yields the best learning results. Phonics skills are important because they provide generalization power. Once the child has completed 40 lessons of *Funnix*, you will start to see generalizations. The child will be able to read words that have not been taught in the program.

Phonics also helps the child who gets "stuck" on a word. Instead of asking for help or skipping the word, the child is able to figure out the word by sounding it out. These skills serve children later when they work with multi-syllabic words that are unfamiliar.

Children are taught to read whole words in *Funnix*, but not until they have practiced sounding out these words. Then "reading the fast way" is introduced gradually, so that the child is able to retain what has been taught about sounding out and doesn't have to suddenly identify all words by sight. Children do not learn "sight words" that they are supposed to remember by their shape or beginning letter.

The transition to whole-word reading starts with word finding, in which the narrator says a word that is on the screen and the child touches that word. Next, children read a list of words by first sounding out each word, and then by reading the list of words "the fast way."

The National Reading Panel, NICHD, acknowledges the importance of phonics. For more information on phonics go to

<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/nrp/smallbook>

**This page links to the actual text regarding phonics:**

<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/nrp/findings>