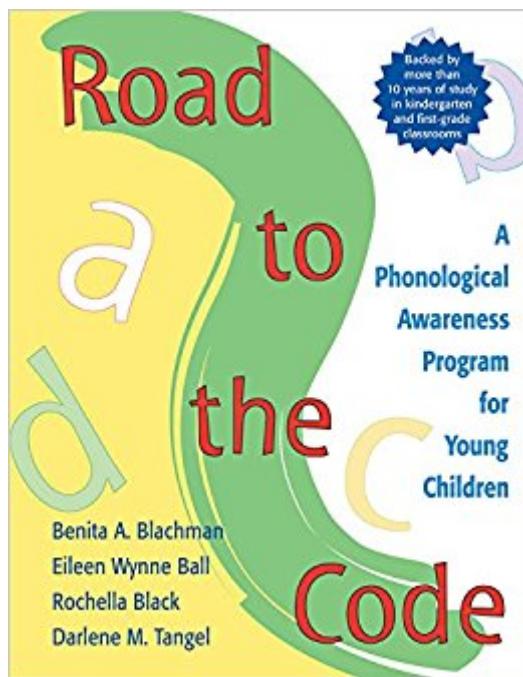


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# Road To The Code: A Phonological Awareness Program For Young Children



## **Synopsis**

For helping kindergartners and first graders who are having difficulty on their early literacy skills, Road to the Code is a successful, 11-week program for teaching phonemic awareness and letter sound correspondence. Developmentally sequenced, each of the 44 15- to 20-minute lessons features three activities â  Say-It-and-Move-It, Letter Name and Sound Instruction, and Phonological Awareness Practice â  that give students repeated opportunities to practice and enhance their beginning reading and spelling abilities. Road to the Code is backed by more than 10 years of study in kindergarten and first-grade classrooms. Detailed scripted instructions and reproducible materials â  such as Alphabet Picture and Sound Bingo cards â  make this program easy for teachers to use. Teachers have the flexibility to work with students individually or in small groups and may adjust the amount of time it takes for a student to complete the program. With these proven phonological awareness activities, educators can confidently intervene before children have a chance to fail.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The Road to the Code Program is a wonderful program in helping kindergarten and at-risk first graders in decoding short vowel words. I am a kindergarten teacher teaching in a title 1 school where half of my students are English language learners. All my kindergarten students learned to read words using this program, regardless of their primary language. I have been using this book for 4 years. This program is easy to implement. A teacher or trained aide will work with a group of 4

children for a 15 minute lesson. Road to the Code teaches children letter/sound correspondence, how to blend letters, and read words. This program WORKS and children find it fun and are successful. It is the BEST early intervention reading program on the market today. This book is a great investment for you emergent readers!

As a teacher of reading I thought that this book has excellent applications of phonemic awareness. It is very easy to understand and to follow. For the child who is at risk, this book starts out at the very beginning of reading acquisition. I would suggest this book to anyone who is working with a low level reader!

I am the parent of a 9 yo 3rd grader, recently diagnosed as dyslexic. Unable to get appropriate help from the school district, I have a tutor I am working with who suggested I use Road to the Code to help with phonemic awareness. It was very easy to follow and I was surprised how much my older child actually enjoyed the games. He recently finished the last lesson as has made significant progress with his short vowel sounds and letter recognition. He is also beginning to understand there is a logical "code" to attack words with. There is practically no skipping around a paragraph, looking for a "clue", like he was doing prior to this instruction. Now that he is on to more advanced curriculum, he sometimes asks to do some of the "Road to the Code" exercises for fun. I will definitely use this program with my (non-dyslexic) kindergartener. The use of only the 8 most frequently used letters, the repetition, and variety of exercises are highly effective and simple. All materials are very low cost and easy to make. I wish they would have used this for him in kindergarten!!!!

Road to the Code is just loaded with information and ideas for use in the classroom. Begins at the beginning with phonological awareness activities and proceeds forward. Great source for instruction and differentiation. Super !!!

I am a Reading Specialist and certified Reading Recovery teacher. I find this to be an excellent resource for helping Kinder. and beginning 1st graders (can move at a faster pace) develop phonemic awareness. I use this 4 days a week with a group of three 1st graders who have been identified to be most at-risk for reading failure (NOTE: I did NOT use DIEBELS to assess. DIEBELS only screens and its scores are based solely on the speed in which a child can supply answers. Not enough information if you want to teach children to recognize their strengths and become strategic

readers and writers. In fact, DIEBELS does not even consider a child's ability to encode words onto a page. I got all the info I needed from Marie Clay's Observation Survey, CLEF, last year's teacher, and current classroom teacher). We begin our time together with Road to the Code and then move into some quick "extensions/reviews" (hands-on activities, phonem. aware. based songs or poems, etc.), followed by a guided reading lesson that is Reading Recovery based (this of course includes independent and share-the-pen writing). This gives the children an authentic opportunity to apply what's been learned in Rode to the Code. It is very well organized and these ladies REALLY know what they are "talking" about!

I think this is a great program for teaching phonemic awareness. It has almost everything that you need. I would recommend it to anyone working with young children or those with special needs that are struggling with reading readiness.

**Words Aren't Fair** By Martha J. Biery  
For a number of summers now, we have given a short course (summer camp) to beginning readers who are struggling a little with phonics. This book, Road to the Code, is the basis of our curriculum. I especially like the manipulative aspect of it. Having the child see where a letter/sound is in a word and then learn how to manipulate that letter/sound is a core skill needed to become a reader. In fact, research supports the fact that children need to process the letters/sounds in words both visually and auditorily in order to store the resulting words in long term memory. Road to the Code is very user-friendly. It is well written and organized in the proper sequence to ensure success for the reader. There are many spin-off activities. The children love the fact that they can make their own booklet that charts their progress as they intergrate what they learn and try to generalize the information into reading phonics booklets and other appropriate material.

Hmmm, it's hard for me to give an honest, concrete rating to this because I've only been using it for two months... but for those interested, here's my input. I volunteer with first graders at a school where most students speak a language other than English at home. Their alphabet is a bit different, so vowel sounds vary. Some kids also have ADD/ADHD issues, so staying on subject can be difficult. For this reason, I like the book because the activities switch constantly so the students don't get bored. Some activities can be monotonous, or seem Really Basic, but these students who are challenged in phonetics still don't completely understand that (for example), the word "BIG" has THREE sounds: b, i, and g. They see the first two letters as one sound. So, there is a LOT of

repetitiveness in separating the sounds, and we do this twice a week. I've been using this book and the material components for about 2 months, and it seems to be working pretty well. I am excited to see the progress as we keep moving forward, and if there are any changes, I'm happy to update.

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