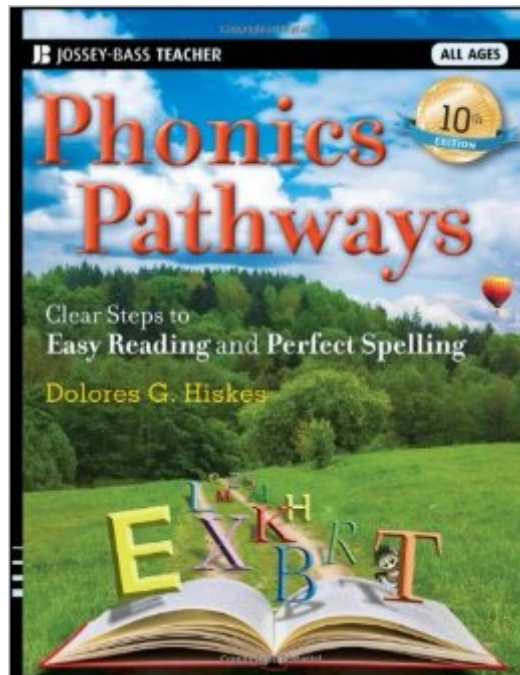


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# Phonics Pathways: Clear Steps To Easy Reading And Perfect Spelling



## Synopsis

Teaches students of all ages the basics of phonics with a time-tested, foolproof method. This tenth edition of the best-selling book teaches reading using sounds and spelling patterns. These sounds and patterns are introduced one at a time, and slowly built into words, syllables, phrases, and sentences. Simple step-by-step directions begin every lesson. Although originally designed for K-2 emergent readers, this award-winning book is also successfully being used with adolescent and adult learners, as well as second language learners and students with learning disabilities. Wise and humorous proverbs encourage virtues such as patience, perseverance, honesty, kindness, compassion, courage, and loyalty. Offers help for all students including those with learning disabilities or very short attention spans. Includes extensive examples, word lists, and practice readings that are 100% decodable. Uses a multisensory method that benefits all learning styles. This bestselling, much-loved book offers a complete approach to teaching phonics and reading for a fraction of the cost of other programs.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (70 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #23,404 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Phonetics & Phonics](#) #10 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Adult & Continuing Education](#) #38 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > Language Experience Approach](#)

## Customer Reviews

This review is from: *Phonics Pathways: Clear Steps to Easy Reading and Perfect Spelling* (Paperback)  
*Reading Pathways: Simple Exercises to Improve Reading Fluency*"Many years ago I tried *Phonics Pathways* with my three-year old and in very short order he was reading EVERYTHING! At 12 years old, his literary world is expansive, reading some college level material, simply because he has been able to read and comprehend so many types of genres for many

years. And he enjoys reading! Then I tried Phonics Pathways with our 13 year old who has Down syndrome. He is currently reading whole sentences, three-syllable words with three consonant blends, all phonetically. If he attempts to guess the word which he sometimes does, I gently guide him back to sounding it out and give him a simple definition of what the word means. He now chooses books and reads them independently. Because of his success, I am teaching another teen with Down syndrome (also English is her second language) how to read as well. This summer was a dream come true for me: I was asked to teach 16 typical four to eight-year-old boys and girls, and their progress was amazing! I used Phonics Pathways and Pyramid. Recently I was asked to work with a 69 year old who has great difficulty reading her entire life. After working with her, I saw that she guessed words, and her eyes had a hard time reading from left to right. My student has since become a very dear and precious friend to me; and she reads everything she gets her hands on. She has completed several books already, for the first time in her life.-----

Perhaps Phonics Pathways is suitable for some learning environments and educators, but I personally do not care for this manual. Initially, I disliked it for the busy style of the text. The information is presented with all sorts of font variations, pictures, quotes, asides, and quips--most of which is presided over by Dewey the Bookworm. There is very little white space on any page. It is packed with images and text. If that's what you like, then you'll probably very much enjoy the book. That's just not my personal aesthetic taste. All that hustle-and-bustle, to me, is distracting and, quite frankly, irritating. Despite my initial displeasure with the style of the book, I proceeded to use it because it came so highly recommended and reviewed. As I used the book, I began to realize that a portion of the most useful information was buried in the jumble of the page--that is, the phonics rules are lost in the mess. There is no visually consistent presentation of the rules (e.g., all the rules in a text box in the upper right corner of the page). None of the rules are visually differentiated from the surrounding babble. One rule might come from Dewey the Bookworm, another rule from a cat, and yet another listed amongst a full page of text with absolutely no indication of any sort that what you're reading is a rule. So what's the big deal about the rules? Rules are the point. Rules are the point of teaching phonics. If I didn't care about the rules, I would just teach my children to sight read. I not only want them to read fluently, I want them to have a good handle on the basic rules of phonics so they can spell fluently and therefore write fluently. Phonics Pathways does contain rules of phonics. But the presentation is so jumbled and fumbled that the rules are not easily accessible and, in my opinion, this creates an unfriendly experience for parents/teachers. It is frustrating and consumes unnecessary quantities of time to have to dig through the busyness of the text to find

these most important rules. By the way, there is an index to spelling rules in PP. It is on page 244 in my 10th edition. Unfortunately, it is jumbled just like the rest of the book. When you are in the middle of a lesson with your 5-yr-old and he asks a question about a previously learned rule--good luck finding it in a timely manner using the index. As stated initially, perhaps PP is appropriate for certain learning environments and educators. Maybe the book makes a good tool for someone who's got a background and training in early childhood language development. But for the rest of us, I would not recommend it.

I highly recommend Phonics Pathways as a well organized, systematic outline for the teaching of phonics rules to children. This is NOT a work book full of "circle the word" or "fill in the blank" exercises like so many others on the market. Phonics Pathways is a thorough guide to sounding out words that you and your child can sit down and use together. The type is large and attractive to children and each page presents just enough new information to be used for one day's lesson. The major emphasis is on letter sounds and lists of words, not unlike our founding fathers would have used. The book starts out with letter sounds, then progresses to lists of 3-letter words like "bet, met, get, pet." Soon the lessons progress to sentences made up of the words that have been learned: "Jan sits and sips pop." This is NOT a story book, but rather a collection of word lists and sentences. You may wish to supplement with "An Ant - Learn to Read" by Kallie Woods, which teaches letter sounds and words in the context of fun illustrated stories. Stories may not be necessary to teach a child to read, but they do add an undeniable "fun factor" and perhaps provide motivation to learn more. An Ant - Learn to Read, Book 1, Home School Version

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