

the Reading Success Movement

RESOURCES: Links to Our Favorites

Tools We Use and Recommend

1. **Reading Kingdom** <http://readingkingdom.com> Online program created by Columbia University developmental psychologist Marion Blank, Ph.D., that teaches children aged 4-10 to read and write to a third grade level.
 - a. Overview
http://www.readingkingdom.com/How_is_Reading_Kingdom_different_from_other_reading_systems.pdf
 - b. Curriculum Guide
http://cogread.com/Resources/Reading%20Kingdom/Reading_Kingdom_Curriculum.pdf
2. **Let's Go Learn** <http://www.letsgolearn.com> Engaging, adaptive, online assessment tools and supplemental learning tools for reading and math.
 - a. **DORA** http://www.letsgolearn.com/media/PDFs/Brochure_DORA.pdf Online K-12 reading assessments.
 - b. **EDGE** <http://www.letsgolearn.com/media/PDFs/EmergentReaderEdgeV08-web.pdf> Online supplemental reading curriculum.
3. **BrainWare Safari** <http://www.mybrainware.com/> Online cognitive skills training program.
4. **CogRead** <http://cogread.com> Provider of learning tools and an integrated approach to reading success.
 - a. New Learning Paradigm
http://www.cogread.com/Resources/Materials%20for%20Schools/SchoolProjectPASS_New%20Learning%20Paradigm_v1%205.pdf
 - b. Project PASS Overview
<http://cogread.com/Resources/Materials%20for%20Schools/Project%20Pass%20Summary%20v1.3.pdf>
 - c. Research Background
http://cogread.com/Resources/Research/CogREAD%20Research%20and%20Development%20Background_universal.pdf
5. **Eye Can Learn** <http://www.eyecanlearn.com> Eye exercises to improve visual information processing skills that are vital for reading: Perception, Tracking, Focusing, and Eye Teaming.
6. **Handwriting Without Tears** <http://www.hwtears.com/hwt> Effective program for teaching handwriting, the still indispensable, hands-on training that develops fine-motor skills and supports learning to read.
7. **Balanced Reading** <http://balancedreading.com> Website of Sebastian Wren, author of
 - a. Cognitive Foundations of Learning to Read: A Framework
<http://www.sedl.org/pubs/catalog/items/read12.html>
 - b. The Abecedarian Reading Assessment
<http://www.balancedreading.com/assessment/abecedarian.html>

Eye-Openers, Heartbreakers, and Ah-Ha Moments

8. **CASEL—Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning** www.casel.org
An organization dedicated to making social and emotional learning an integral part of education.
9. **Children of the Code** <http://childrenofthecode.org> Compelling series of video interviews with leading experts in education and developmental psychology. Viewing the entire series is highly recommended. These two particularly should not be missed:
 - a. <http://www.childrenofthecode.org/Tour/c3b/differences.htm> **“Meaningful Differences”** explains why some children are better prepared than others for reading success when they enter school.
 - b. <http://www.childrenofthecode.org/Tour/c3c/index.htm> **“Shame”** Illuminates through first-person accounts the pain children experience when they struggle with reading.
10. **SharpBrains.com** <http://sharpbrains.com/index.php> Independent clearinghouse of information on health and wellness applications of brain science. For a brief description of cognitive abilities with links to activities that demonstrate how they work, see <http://sharpbrains.com/blog/2006/12/18/what-are-cognitive-abilities/>. Also see **The SharpBrains Guide to Brain Fitness** <http://www.amazon.com/The-SharpBrains-Guide-Brain-Fitness/dp/0982362978>.
11. **BabyZone.com, “Baby Week by Week”** <http://www.babyzone.com/baby/baby-week-by-week/> Developmental research and simple recommendations for a baby’s first 52 weeks.
12. **“The Secret to Raising Smart Kids”** by Carol Dweck [http://www.cogread.com/Resources/Articles/Smart%20Kids%20Summary%20\(Dweck\).pdf](http://www.cogread.com/Resources/Articles/Smart%20Kids%20Summary%20(Dweck).pdf). On the importance of mindset in learning and why it’s better to praise effort rather than “smarts.” Also see Dweck’s **Mindset: The New Psychology of Success** <http://www.amazon.com/Mindset-The-New-Psychology-Success/dp/0345472322>.
13. **TED.com, “Dan Pink: The puzzle of motivation”** http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_pink_on_motivation.html Popular TED Talk on the true drivers of motivation. Oriented toward business, but applies to any discipline and especially to education. Also see Pink’s **Drive: The surprising truth about what motivates us** <http://www.amazon.com/Drive-Surprising-Truth-About-Motivates/dp/1594484805>
14. **The Brilliant Blog** by Annie Murphy Paul <http://anniemurphypaul.com/blog> Engaging commentary on the science of learning. See, in particular, **“The Power of Interest”** <http://anniemurphypaul.com/2013/11/the-power-of-interest/> and **“The Power of Intention”** <http://anniemurphypaul.com/2013/10/the-power-of-intention/>.
15. **MindShift: How We Will Learn** <http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/> A blog that “explores the future of learning in all its dimensions, covering cultural and technology trends, innovations in education, groundbreaking research, education policy, and more.”

Engaging Activities for Read-Talk-Play, Math, and Information Processing

16. **MemFox.net** <http://memfox.net/> Website of Mem Fox, literacy expert and bestselling author of over 30 children’s books and the much-loved **Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever**, which includes easy-to-follow examples of

engaging read-talk-play activities. At the website, click on “For everyone: current read-alouds” to hear Mem read; and “For anyone interested: a read-aloud lesson” to hear tips for getting the most from a read-aloud session. Also see “Meet the Author: Mem Fox,” http://issuu.com/naeyc/docs/meet_the_author_mem_fox.

17. **Trelease on Reading** <http://www.trelease-on-reading.com> Website of Jim Trelease, author of *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, the classic guide to reading aloud to children <http://www.amazon.com/The-Read-Aloud-Handbook-Seventh-Edition/dp/014312160X>. Includes “The Treasury of Read-Alouds,” a comprehensive list of book recommendations categorized by type and age appropriateness.
18. **Reading Rockets** <http://www.readingrockets.org> A national multimedia literacy initiative offering information and resources on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help <http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents>.
19. **Read-Talk-Play** <http://readtalkplay.org>; **Talk-Read-Play** <http://talkreadplay.org>; and **Play-Talk-Read** <http://www.playtalkread.org> Model community-based programs that encourage parents to engage as their children’s first teachers.
20. **Bedtime Math** <http://bedtimemath.org/> The bedtime story equivalent for math. Engaging math riddles to help kids focus and calm down at bedtime. Kids love solving these, and research supports the value of a little fun learning right before sleep: <http://anniemurphypaul.com/2013/12/dreams-that-make-you-smarter>.
21. **Starfall.com** <http://www.starfall.com> A free public service that teaches children to read with phonics.
22. **Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, “Why Singing is So Important for Your Young Child and You”** <http://music.rice.edu/ycd/res001.shtml> Describes the many benefits of singing for child development.
23. **Novel Games** <http://www.novelgames.com/en/> Commercial site that provides free family-friendly games, some of which train specific information processing (cognitive) skills such as memory, processing speed, visual processing, spatial reasoning, logic, and problem solving.

Other Sites for Age-Appropriate Activities

These sites group activities by age-appropriateness and are easy to navigate. Of course “age-appropriate” is a relative term. Development takes place at different rates and will naturally follow a child’s own evolving interests. Some children may want more challenging activities than those suggested for their age level, while others may need a little more time. Keeping in mind that children require plenty of time to explore on their own to develop their imaginations and problem-solving skills, what they need most from caring adults is a light hand, gentle encouragement, and not too many “suggestions.”

24. **BabyCenter.com** <http://www.babycenter.com/> Provides expert advice beginning with preparation for pregnancy. Clarifies developmental milestones and recommends age-appropriate activities from birth to age eight. For example, see activity suggestions for a child’s first year: http://www.babycenter.com/0_lets-play-weekly-activities-for-your-babys-first-year_1501475.bc
25. **Education.com** <http://www.education.com/> Use pull-down “Activities” menu.

26. **FamilyEducation.com** <http://www.familyeducation.com/> Search “developmental activities by age.”
27. **Fun & Engaging Activities for Toddlers** <http://engagingtoddleractivities.wordpress.com/age-groups/> Blogger mom who posts activities with photos. Click on “Age Range” to see activities appropriate for age groups from infancy to age 5+.
28. **Grandparents.com** <http://www.grandparents.com/> Search “activities” in search box. This site does not categorize activities by age-appropriateness, but many of the activities are appropriate for a range of ages. Good ideas for grandparents and parents, too.
29. **HandsOnAsWeGrow.com** <http://handsonaswegrow.com/> Use “Kids Activities” or other menus for “gobs of ideas.”
30. **KidPointz.com** <http://www.kidpointz.com/> Use pull-down “Activities” menu.
31. **Parenthood.com** <http://www.parenthood.com/> Search “age-appropriate activities.”
32. **ProductiveParenting.com** <http://www.productiveparenting.com/> Use pull-down menus.
33. **TheBump.com** <http://www.thebump.com/> Search “age-appropriate activities.”

RESEARCH AND REFERENCES: The Science and Wisdom behind “The Reading Success Movement”

From an abundance of research reports, meta-analyses, websites, and books, the following citations refer to those that most directly influenced development of TRSM’s implementation strategy and learning tools selection.

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