

## ***Go Phonics Review by a home educator:***

Our family began our home education journey when our oldest child was entering Kindergarten. While I have some background in education, my degree was not in this field. I understood how essential the skill of reading is for life success and felt it imperative to use an excellent curriculum in these foundational years. As I began the dizzying process of sorting through resources available, I realized I valued several key components:

- ◆ a curriculum with a sensible approach to combining phonics and phonemics
- ◆ a teacher's manual that provided ample help for a rookie like me
- ◆ quality student materials

After an extensive search, and spending some time reviewing ***Go Phonics*** samples online, I decided ***Go Phonics*** was the right choice for our family. Using the Orton-Gillingham approach, ***Go Phonics*** orders the sounds taught in a logical manner. While none of my children have reading difficulties, I find myself partial to the Orton-Gillingham method because it just seems to make good sense.

### **What I Like About *Go Phonics*:**

- ◆ **Comprehensive approach to language arts for Kindergarten - 2nd Grade:** The ***Go Phonics*** curriculum gives a solid foundation for phonics, reading, spelling, grammar and writing. You need not supplement this curriculum with other materials, as it is a complete and solid resource.
- ◆ **High quality materials:** It can be difficult to find a curriculum that satisfies educational excellence while also being aesthetically pleasing. Both in content and in printing production, ***Go Phonics*** has truly high-quality materials. The complete curriculum also includes resources and strategies for multi-sensory learning so concepts can be better learned and retained.
- ◆ **Teacher's Manual:** The Teacher's Guide was a major selling point for me. Knowing my lack of experience with phonics/phonemics, I was relying on those who were well studied in this area, but could also communicate to me the information I'd need to teach. The writer of this curriculum clearly understood the necessity to set the instructor up for success! With the Teacher's Guide in hand, I felt equipped to move ahead in educating my children.
- ◆ **Spiral-Bound Readers:** I love these readers! With Levels (1-5) of ***Go Phonics***, there is a quality-printed, spiral-bound reader that uses the sounds and skills the students have been learning. These stories are written to directly correlate to the phonics skills taught to that point, so they are nearly 100% decodable. What a blessing to watch my child sit straighter as she read an entire story by herself!
- ◆ **Card Games/Board Games:** One component that sets ***Go Phonics*** apart from other curricula is their development of corresponding games, which reinforce the sounds being taught and learned. These

games are easily adapted to play with one child or an entire classroom. The games (as well as the readers mentioned above) have wonderful illustrations that add to the delight of the activity.

◆ **Customer Service:** Every time I have contacted **Go Phonics**, I have always been met with a personable voice on the other end ready to help me succeed in teaching my child. To know support is available for any questions that may arise as I use the curriculum is a real confidence booster.

◆ **Assessments:** The curriculum comes with an Assessment CD. These assessments are meant to be given to students at the end of each level to evaluate their understanding and mastery of the material taught. These assessments are extremely comprehensive. Not having experience in giving standardized tests, I was a little overwhelmed by the assessments. I realized, however, these assessments are quite manageable when broken up into shorter, daily segments. While it took some time to complete each level's assessment, I had a very clear picture of what my child understood and what she would need further work on. What an amazing gift to have a tool enabling me to clearly see where my child still needed help!

◆ **Investment:** The initial financial investment may seem high, especially if you are educating on a shoestring budget. I can attest, however, the return on your investment is phenomenal. Not only do you receive quality printed materials, you are giving the priceless gift of a strong, solid foundation for the essential skills of reading, writing, and spelling.

While intended to be a K - 2 curriculum, the structure of **Go Phonics** allows the student to set the pace for work completed. When they are ready to move on, you can. Since beginning home education over three years ago, one child has completed the curriculum and has a strong foundation built for the years to come. She loves reading and can't borrow enough books from the library! I have another child who completed Level 1 (Alphabet) this school year and is doing great! I expect the same wonderful results as I methodically work through the **Go Phonics** curriculum with him.

**Bottom Line:** Without any hesitation, with no reservations, I would absolutely, positively recommend **Go Phonics** to any home educating parent or schoolroom teacher!

Nicole Christiansen, home educating mom - MI