

Dear Parents and Teachers,

This activity book is a supplement to the *Reading Made Easy* curriculum manual. Please feel free to use it in a manner that best serves the needs of your children and students. This book is intended as an aid for reviewing and reinforcing the lessons in *Reading Made Easy*.

I suggest you complete a given lesson in the curriculum manual on one day and then complete the activities associated with that lesson in the activity book on the following day. Young children often have brief attention spans and learn best in short sessions. Moreover, they need time to absorb concepts and information before advancing to new material.

As you progress through the *Reading Made Easy* curriculum manual, your student will be asked to complete copy work exercises. The passages to be copied and space for the student to copy the passages are provided in this activity book. The copy work exercises do not contain the print clues found in the stories in the reading manual. This offers the student an opportunity to read regular print. Some lessons also ask the student to trace or draw a picture included in the lesson. Then the student is asked to create a sentence (and later a story) to accompany this picture. The picture to be drawn and space for the picture and sentence (or story) are included in this activity book.

If the student is not comfortable writing the sentence or story, the student may dictate it to you, the parent or teacher. The student may copy it from your handwritten model, or if this is too difficult, you may write the student's dictation directly in the activity book. Next, encourage the student to read his or her story aloud. Assist the student with any difficult words. This exercise provides an opportunity for the student to learn new words through his or her own creative writing. (The copy work exercises are based on the *Italic Handwriting Series* from Portland State University. See page 11 in the *Reading Made Easy* curriculum manual for further information.)

The first and most crucial step in teaching your children and students to read is to encourage them to develop a love for reading. Putting unnecessary pressure on children to advance through any program too quickly will only hinder this goal.

Have fun with your children and remember--learning lasts a lifetime!

Blessings,

Valerie Bendt