
PACT PROGRESS

The newsletter of Parents and Children Together



Volume One, January 2009

The Right to Fail!

A letter by our founder and director, Hellen Codling

Our media is spending a lot of time discussing the economic crisis our country and world is in. There is also a lot of discussion about pouring money into businesses in an effort to try and prevent them from collapsing, but this solution holds no guarantee. A strong business needs efficient, productive management working to provide products and services that the population *wants* to purchase and invest their money in. Jim Pattison, a successful Canadian entrepreneur, made a very wise statement when he said, "Businesses have the right to fail!"

Think about this comment in view of your child's education. Businesses need certain things to be successful and so do children in their academics. Just as bail-outs for businesses hold no guarantees, moving children on to higher levels does not equate with success for those children.

Whether your children are in the public school system or are being homeschooled YOU need to be certain that they have learned the basics needed for a strong academic foundation. YOU need to make sure they do not fall through the cracks. YOU are the one who cares most about their academic success.

Check to see that your child has mastered these basics. Sometimes we take for granted that they know things they do not. Many children learn much by osmosis and we just expect others to do the same. A child will have trouble writing stories and using a dictionary if they cannot write out their alphabet in under two minutes. A child will never enjoy reading if they have not mastered their sight words. They will also never be independent readers if they do not have sufficient phonics skills to be able to decode new words. Many children just give up and will not even attempt to do simple math problems in their heads because they have never mastered basic math skills. Where are your children at?

- 1) Sight Word Knowledge (200 Sight Words in **two minutes**)
- 2) Phonetic Knowledge (know the Vowel and Consonant Sounds)
- 3) Letter Formation Skills (print/ write the alphabet in **two minutes neatly**)
- 4) Count bys for Computation (2s-20, 3s-30, 4s-40,...10s-100)

Yes, ensuring that your child has this foundation is hard work. But we keep hearing about how the school system needs more money to educate our children, is money really the answer? Do not allow your child the "**right to fail**" because of the lack of a solid foundation. Listen to your child! Children naturally love to learn. If they do not like something there is usually a reason. Contact us, we are here to help!



"Businesses
have the
right to
fail!"

Listen to
your
customers

Are you
giving your
child the
"right to
fail"
in
education?

Listen to
your child.

*"Learning anything worthwhile is difficult."
- Gilbert Highet*

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Congratulations!

Jonas Codling earns his

Congratulations to Jonas Codling of Squamish, B.C. on earning the PACT KEY SOUNDS Red and Green Ribbons!

What did this task entail?

To achieve the RED Ribbon, Jonas memorized a Key Word for each short and long vowel. He also wrote each of these Key Words in a proper English sentence. Even though Grade One students may copy their sentences, Jonas chose to create his own sentences.

To achieve the GREEN Ribbon, Jonas memorized a Key Word for each of the Beginning Blends phonemes (39 Key Words!). He also created his own sentence for each Key Word. This is super practice for story and essay writing!

Now, Jonas is going on to achieve his YELLOW Ribbon. This requires review and teaches long term memory skills. Every page in the first half of Key Sounds, from the very first "Vowels" page to the "Silent- E" page is written in one sitting.

Good job

100% Mastery is the Key!

Jonas!

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Jonas Codling

has mastered
Oral Recitation of
Beginning Blends

100%



mastery

Congratulations!

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Beginning Blends

Beginning Blends (1): bl br ch cl chr cr cu dr dw
fl fr gl gr ph pl pr qu sc sch scr sh

Beginning Blends (2): sk sl sm sn sp shr spl spr squ
st str sw th th thr tr tw wh

Activities

- 1.) Ask your child to read each phoneme.
- 2.) Give the Key Word if you are a PACT student and using the Key Sounds phonetic book.
- 3.) For an application exercise, give at least one more word that starts with the same beginning blend.
e.g.: **bl - blue** , blast, blink, blot, blustery, etc.
- 4.) Throughout the week, make a note of the words which begin with Beginning Blends as you come across them. Remember the Key Word which begins with the same blend.