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# PACT PROGRESS

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The newsletter of Parents and Children Together



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## Motivated Learning Starts Early

A letter from our Founder and Director, Hellen Codling



All children want to learn! From birth, children are constantly learning and growing. Why is it that so many students stop wanting to learn when formal schooling begins? ("Formal Schooling" includes homeschoolers as well.) Over the last few years schools have been working hard at trying to raise learning standards, with some success. More boys are now graduating and the average academic success rate has grown. This is great! BUT it is not great if *my* child is one of the ones who is not achieving at grade level by the end of Grade 3. Statistics show that it is difficult for a child to catch-up if they are behind at the end of Grade 3 and usually do not. There are many reasons of course, but the bottom line is that many children will not catch up without therapy and individual tutoring. A lot of parents cannot afford this and schools cannot provide it. What can be done?

Avoiding the problem in the first place is the most obvious solution. Make sure that the enthusiasm your children have naturally in their early years does not disappear due to not achieving success. They are willing to work hard when they see that success is achieved.

MASTERING the foundation needed for success requires **repetition and mastery**. Musicians, artists, and athletes know this to be true. A strong foundation of mastered skills is also a requirement for success in the academic realm.



"I can do it myself!"

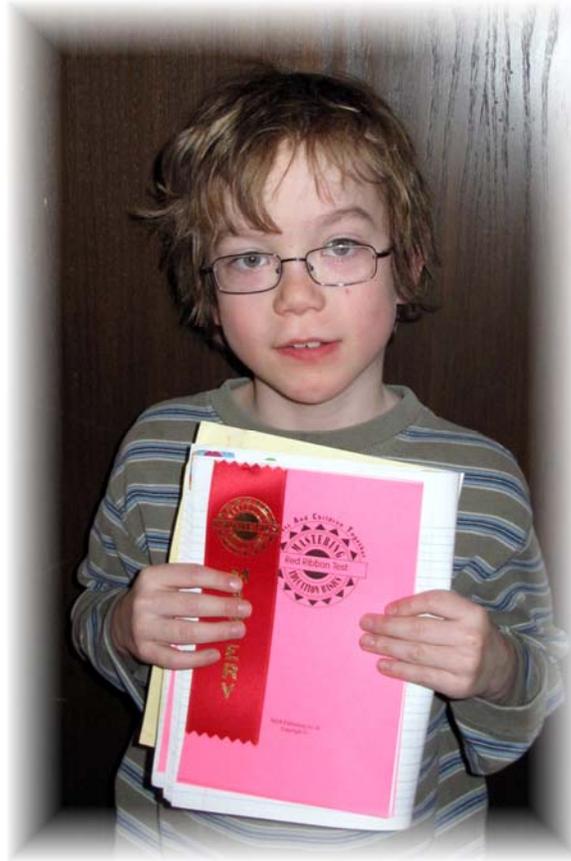
As Rick Warren states, "Repetition is the mother of character and skill". And we have all heard the adage "Practice makes perfect." Teaching the right "stuff" to the point of mastery develops motivated, enthusiastic students. Creativity comes as skills are mastered when working to achieve goals.

George Leonard in his book "*MASTERY*" says, "The people we know as masters don't devote themselves to their particular skill just to get better at it. The truth is, they love to practice and because of this they do get better. And then

to complete the circle, the better they get the more they enjoy performing the basic moves over and over again." Only then he believes can one "appreciate the subtleties contained within even the most rudimentary technique."

If your child is one who is behind, go back to the basics to ensure they have been mastered. Filling in the "learning gaps" might seem tedious but it is the only real way to keep problems from resurfacing and bring back the joy of learning. This joy of learning fuels motivation.





**Jeremy Yauck** of Govan SK has earned the **Red Ribbon in Key Sounds!**

# Congratulations!

What did this require? He wrote each of the Key Words for the **Long and Short Vowels** and the **Consonants** in correct English Sentences. Then, he memorized each word and completed the written test (as shown on the following page).

This develops **short and long term memory** and **test taking skills** as well as strengthening **perseverance** building **confidence**.

Activity for PACT students: See if you can re-write this test.

Activity for others: See if you can write a word for each sound.

(See test on the following page)



Vowels

! - \_\_\_\_\_ ^ - \_\_\_\_\_

@ - \_\_\_\_\_ & - \_\_\_\_\_

# - \_\_\_\_\_ \* - \_\_\_\_\_

\$ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( - \_\_\_\_\_

% - \_\_\_\_\_ ) - \_\_\_\_\_

Consonants

b - \_\_\_\_\_ h - \_\_\_\_\_

c - \_\_\_\_\_ j - \_\_\_\_\_

d - \_\_\_\_\_ k - \_\_\_\_\_

f - \_\_\_\_\_ l - \_\_\_\_\_

g - \_\_\_\_\_ ll - \_\_\_\_\_

m - \_\_\_\_\_ t - \_\_\_\_\_

n - \_\_\_\_\_ v - \_\_\_\_\_

p - \_\_\_\_\_ w - \_\_\_\_\_

qu /kw/ - \_\_\_\_\_ x /ks/ - \_\_\_\_\_

qu /k/ - \_\_\_\_\_ x /gz/ - \_\_\_\_\_

r - \_\_\_\_\_ x /z/ - \_\_\_\_\_

s - \_\_\_\_\_ y - \_\_\_\_\_

s /z/ - \_\_\_\_\_ z - \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE:

'c' says /s/ before 'e', 'i', 'y' as in  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE:

'g' says /j/ before 'e', 'i', 'y' as in  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

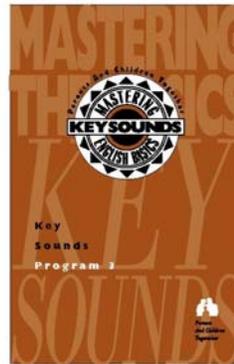
\_\_\_\_\_

has achieved  
100% Mastery  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Congratulations!



**Mona Kim** earns her  
Blue Ribbon and  
**Key Sounds Bronze Medal!**



*Congratulations* to **Mona Kim** of Regina, SK on earning the PACT KEY SOUNDS Bronze Medal!

What did this task entail?

She learned the 190 phonetic phonemes and memorized a Key Word for each phoneme. She also wrote every Key Word into a correct English sentence.

To earn the BLUE RIBBON she completed the last page in the Key Sounds book- Schwa Sounds. To get to this point she previously completed the RED, GREEN, and YELLOW ribbon tests and earned those ribbons.

For the final BRONZE MEDAL test Mona wrote all of the key words for each phoneme in one sitting. Students can do this in about 30-40 minutes. You can see that **focused attention, perseverance, short and long term memory, penmanship skills, decoding and encoding skills** are developed. These skills are a great foundation for **story and essay writing**.

*100% Mastery is the Key!*