



## **Whole Language and Phonics: Can They Work Together?**

The following information that is being shared here is from an article from Learning Press called, “Whole Language or Phonics: Which Approach Is Best?”

Due to the length of the article, I have summarized a few noteworthy excerpts from the article.

The debate over the best way to teach reading isn't new. In fact, the question has been argued through much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A number of different approaches to teaching reading have dominated during that time span. Proponents of one method are often extremely critical of another method. Proponents of each maintain their particular approach is the key to engaging children in reading.

With increasing pressure on teachers and administrators to raise students' test scores, the debate rages on among educators, parents, and experts.

In a recent International Reading Association (IRA) position statement, the organization took a stance supporting phonics within a whole language program.

The article cites that a single approach to reading generally doesn't work. The article goes on to say that there is an extensive body of research that backs “the global approach of whole language as a framework.” Within that framework, strategies from different approaches need to be utilized.

The majority of experts now contend that neither approach by itself is effective all the time but that both approaches possess merit. What does succeed then, many experts say, is a carefully designed reading program that employs part whole language approach and part phonics, and takes into account each student's learning style and demonstrated strengths and weaknesses.

One thing proponents of any method being used do agree on is that parental involvement is vital to reading no matter which approaches are used.

**To see the complete article go to “Whole Language and Phonics: Can They Work Together?” *Education World*. N.p. 1996-2014. Web. 28 Aug. 2014 <[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/curr029.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr029.shtml)>.**