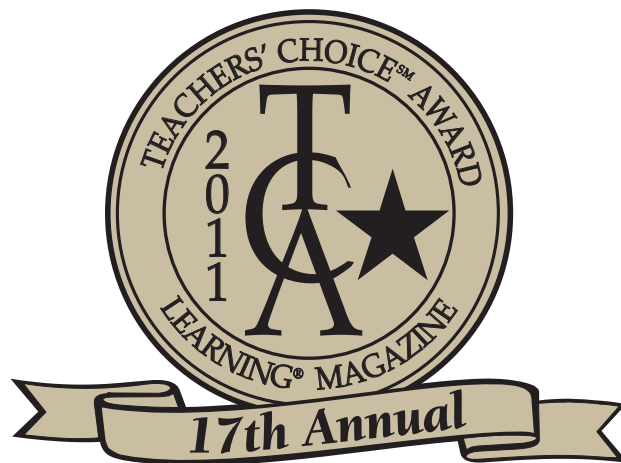


# Learning<sup>®</sup>



Teachers' Evaluation Comments

17th Annual

Teachers' Choice<sup>SM</sup> Award 2011

**Learning® Magazine**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Teachers' Choice<sup>SM</sup> Award for the Classroom 2011**

Below you will find the comments for your product. As you read the comments, please note that this is the literal text from the evaluation forms. We have not differentiated comments between the teachers on each team. Although we encourage teachers to provide comments, it is not a requirement. Therefore, you may notice if you had multiple entries, the responses may be more or less in depth depending on the team of teachers. We do not use comments in the scoring process. They are provided as insight into the panel's thoughts on your product.

We hope you find the responses helpful and continue to participate in the Teachers' Choice Awards in the future. Applications will be available in January 2011 for the 18th Annual Teachers' Choice Awards program.

<b>Product</b> <b>2145</b> <b>Zoo-phonics Preschool Kit</b>
<b>Company</b> <b>Zoo-phonics, Inc.</b>

**What aspects of this product did you like the most?**

I liked that this is a tool that can be used over and over again. I liked the fact that as the children learn you can add more things to it. It leads the children into reading letters. The children learn the letters using hand or body signs  
It is fun and the children love it! I liked how you had to sign for each letter and that the children caught on very fast then started to teach one another. WOW! This program was a hit in our class room, and both the children and their parents are very happy with this program!

It is so difficult to find academic programs like this for preschoolers. We are very academic, but find that most curriculums fail to understand what children are capable of learning when it is actually offered to them. As I read through the teaching manual I found so many wonderful ideas. This is an academic program that is also full of fun. The activities are practical and effective. I love the alliterative names of the animals. I love the entire approach of this program. I was looking through this program figuring I'd find some ideas to supplement my current curriculum, but I will be using this curriculum instead. It is just perfect.

This is a great program! The teacher's manual is interesting and easy to read. The lesson plans are easy to follow and captivating. It is the type of program that is not only fun for the children, but also the teacher. The assessments were very comprehensive and useful. They are designed in a manner that really allows us to determine which skills each child needs to work on. The DVD really helped. Moving like the animals representing each letter was such a great kinesthetic activity! This program is great! It has everything you would need to implement this program flawlessly.

Wow, everything! This product was so easy to use! Everything you needed for a complete phonics curriculum was right at your finger tips.

**How would this product need to improve to better support your curriculum?**

I do not think this needs to change. Colorful and eye catching. involves children fun way of introducing letters and sounds. None this program is great, great, great! Best program I have ever worked with!

I love it as it is. It is very comprehensive. The activities and masters are useful and engaging.

I love it as it is. I really offers something for every child!

I have no suggestions! Loved it!

At this time, I have no suggestions for improvement. This program was awesome!

**How did you make use of the product, or integrate it into your lesson plans?**

I use this during a group time activity. We use the cards everyday throughout the day. The children use the signs to spell

their names

I worked with it daily to have fun to teach the children phonics.

At this point in the school year, I used parts of this curriculum as a review. I introduced the children to the animals and the associated movements. We tried several of the worksheets as well. I used many of the worksheets that let the children really write and think (Today, This Is How I Feel, for example). This was not only effective, but very enjoyable.

I started with the letter we were currently working on. I also had the children try to identify the letter that each animal was representing on the cards. We had a zoo phonics egg hunt. The children loved making and putting the puzzles together. The children loved everything we did from this program. A few parents asked about the signals and I let them borrow the video. They found it very helpful and easy to use. The colorful letter cards were fantastic. The reproducibles made it so easy to get lessons ready.

I reviewed the product myself, but did several of the activities with my students as a review. I will definitely be implementing this next year starting at the beginning of school!

I used several of the lessons to review and teach new phonics sounds. I will definitely be using this program in full next year as my students gained so much from just a few lessons!

### **What skills did your students learn from this product?**

Letter recognition, sounds, language skills are just a few skills learned.

Phonics In just one week!! The children have been learning so much! The best thing is that the children ASK to play the zoo phonics game. Yes, the children WANT to work on phonics!

The children gained an appreciation for learning. They learned about alliteration, letter sounds, and reviewed letter names. They would gain reading and writing skills. They would also gain cognitive skills as well.

The children loved signaling. After some practice they were signaling all of the letters. They learned how to form letters and relate them to their animal shapes. They learned letter sounds. They gained fine and gross motor skills.

Phonics! This was a great way for them to practice as well as go over some new sounds!

They learned phonics skills, as well as review skills and listening skills.

### **If funds were available, would you recommend this product to a teacher at the appropriate grade / age level? Please explain why or why not.**

Yes, I would recommend this product because its a fun way of learning letters and sounds. It is teacher friendly meaning easy to follow and understand. I also think it is useful to have an activity guide to further the learning experience. I would recommend this for ages 3 and up.

Yes, yes, yes! Great program I have told many people about this program already! The children love it! Everyone needs this in the class room! It is fun and children move and learn at the same time!

Yes. This type of program is so hard to find. It is easy to use, very effective, and a fun way to teach. The ideas are plenty and can be used as needed. It is a program that allows you to focus on the particular needs of your students. I love everything this program has to offer.

Yes. With Zoo Phonics you do not need another curriculum. It is all inclusive. There are so many different activities and concepts. It is very creative and a fun way to introduce letters, sounds, and printing to the children. The children get totally involved in this program. They do not just sit and passively learn, they are active participants!

ABSOLUTELY! This kit has everything you need to teach phonics to preschoolers! It's easy-to-use and the students loved it! It's sometimes hard to get them engaged with a program, but they asked for this every time we sat down for phonics instruction! Great job!!!!!!

Yes, I think this is a great product and deserves to be an award winner! Everything you need is all in one kit, and the children loved the materials and wanted to use them over our old program. Everything about this kit is a winner!