

Comparing Features of *Funnix Beginning Reading* and *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons*

Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons (TYC) and *Funnix Beginning Reading* are both beginning reading programs developed by [Siegfried Engelmann](#) using the Direct Instruction method and have research validation supporting their effectiveness. TYC is an adaptation from *Distar Reading I*, which was later named *Reading Mastery I*. TYC was published and highly publicized by, Simon and Schuster. TYC works so it is the top selling family book on Amazon. Engelmann self-published *Funnix*. Though *Funnix* works as well as TYC, *Funnix* has not received the publicity, exposure, and notoriety of TYC.

Here are a comparison of features:

Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons

100 Lessons
Teaches about 500 words
Many children have difficulty with the transition to regular print starting on lessons in the 60s

Perceived Problems with *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons*

Presents many orthographic prompts--unusually-shaped letters, joined letters, small letters, and macrons.
The presentation requires difficult blending skills, such as sounding out words without pausing between sounds.
Parents display the book to the children while coordinating points and touches with the delivery of the instructions.
Does not accommodate children who have some reading skills.
Does not refer to letter names early in the program, only sounds.
Does not use capital letters early in the program.
Presents no spelling, written comprehension and independent activities.
Lacks stimulating visual material.
Lacks engaging comprehension activities.

Funnix Beginning Reading and Funnix 2

120 Lessons with a 100 Lesson sequel (<i>Funnix 2</i>)
Teaches about 800 words (with another 950 words in <i>Funnix 2</i>)
<i>Funnix</i> systematically fades the few prompts in <i>Funnix</i> text, so there are few problems with children transferring their reading skills to regular text

Funnix Solutions

Utilizes adult print from the beginning of the program. The only orthographic prompts are underlinings and blue letters.
The initial presentation and corrections are provided. Parents are only required to present the correct responses which may include saying the sounds for words.
Parents direct the <i>Funnix</i> program, and the program presents all of the narrations with coordinated graphics.
Readily accommodates children with some reading skills with instruction in some transition exercises.
Refers to letter names from lesson 1 and uses them to teach appropriate pronunciation of letter sounds.
Capital letters appear on the first lessons that present sentences.
Provides daily written comprehension and independent activities. The daily <i>Funnix</i> spelling exercises teaches the full range of basic word families (including words with final e and combinations like ai, ea, oa and ar).
Presents visually engaging displays for each part of every lesson, all in full color and designed to augment the lessons.
Presents a variety of stimulating story-reading formats that both facilitate children's understanding of the story and engages them in analyzing the details of stories.

