

Little Learners

K3

**PATHWAYS
FOR
PRESCHOOL
(2'S & 3'S)**

K4

**FOOTSTEPS
FOR FOURS**

K5

**FOCUS ON
FIVES**





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OUR VISION

To develop foundational knowledge and skills through guided activities and independent exploration that encourage a joy of learning while teaching students to relate biblically to their authorities and peers.

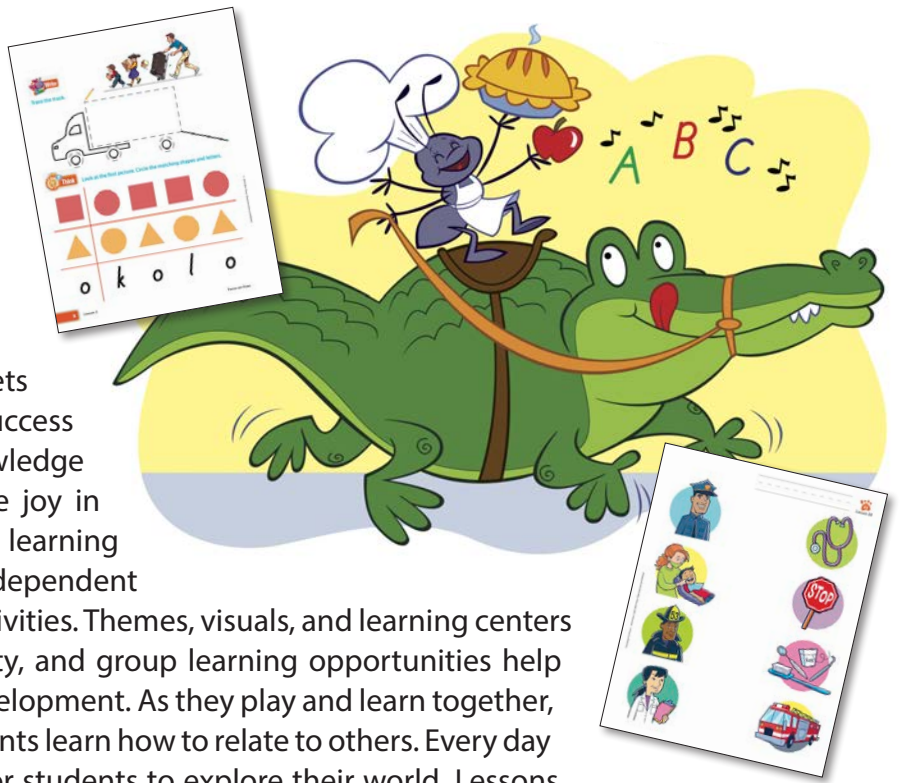
GOALS

- *To teach students foundational phonics to prepare for reading with understanding*
- *To guide students in applying foundational Bible, math, science, and social studies skills*
- *To give opportunities to communicate through listening, speaking, and composing*
- *To guide students in relating biblically to their fellow students, authorities, and other people in their communities*
- *To provide opportunities for hands-on learning, discovery learning, and intentional play*
- *To equip students in applying the knowledge of God to how they think, learn, and play*

PROGRAM APPROACH

The BJU Press early learning program sets children on a path for future learning success by developing their foundational knowledge and skills and by helping them to take joy in learning. Students engage in intentional learning with free play, hands-on learning, and independent discovery-based and teacher-guided activities. Themes, visuals, and learning centers encourage the students' natural curiosity, and group learning opportunities help students with their social-emotional development. As they play and learn together, following their teachers directions, students learn how to relate to others. Every day in our early learning program is a day for students to explore their world. Lessons and learning strands prepare them for future learning in math, social studies, and science.

Bible strands and dedicated K4 and K5 Bible courses help students to both live and know the Bible. We strive to equip teachers with games and strategies to turn what children do naturally into intentional play and to make early learning a joyful and engaging experience.



Teaching Foundational Phonics

Ultimately, phonics is about preparing students to read. But we are not just preparing them to be able to read. **We are preparing them to read with confidence and understanding, because students who are confident in their ability to read are better prepared to value and enjoy reading.** Building reading confidence in early learners is a gradual process—they must be ready to read, and they must be conscious of how letters make words. As they build phonemic awareness, they can learn to recognize known words, and then use what they know about letters to decode words they don't know. A well-prepared student will be able to make meaning out of the written word, to read with fluency, to communicate effectively, and to enjoy lifelong reading.

In order to prepare them appropriately, the BJU Press early learning program starts with strong phonics foundations. To cultivate reading readiness and spelling consciousness, learning games and songs develop and encourage phonemic awareness throughout each course. Theme characters and group learning segments like the Big Red Barn in K3 and the Teaching Tree in K4 help children to focus and learn new letters visually. In K5, phonics stories, phonics songs, rhyming songs, read-alouds, and multisensory activities gradually develop letter-sound associations. Once students can recognize letters, they are ready to learn to decode words. Our phonics program uses a word-family approach and high frequency words to quickly build vocabulary

so that students can begin practicing reading comprehension in early readers. Our phonics characters help students to recognize visual and textual cues so students can develop their word-recognition skills. These characters give students an easy and memorable way to learn how to read words with short and long vowels, consonant blends, digraphs, *r*-influenced vowels, special vowel sounds, silent consonants, suffixes, and other phonetic patterns. Phonics instruction continues through Grade 3, with additional review options through Grades 4 and 5.

Applying Foundational Skills

Children must also begin developing the skills necessary for them to be successful learners. In the BJU Press early learning program, they will start building worldview foundations early by learning Bible Action Truths and Bible promises—truths about the Bible and living for Christ that are closely tied to specific memory verses for retention and application. Students will continue building these foundations in dedicated K4 and K5 Bible courses.

Students will be introduced to early math skills that help them recognize numbers and shapes, as well as

help them count, sort, find patterns and sequences, and classify. From K3 to K5, students will develop strong foundations for number sense with a manipulative-based approach. Teachers can use the manipulatives as modeling tools while students get a hands-on understanding of number manipulation. Using manipulatives in this way helps students to develop problem-solving skills, mathematical reasoning, and computational fluency. In the full year K5 math course, students get their first look at how math applies to real-life situations as they develop an understanding of math and God's purpose for it.

Students will also develop early foundations in science and social studies skills. Suggestions for science and sensory centers and lessons give teachers opportunities to show children how to observe and interact with their world, and they develop social and heritage studies skills by learning about how communities work and what people do in their communities. Suggested games, activities, and crafts also build fine and gross motor skills, and tracing activities develop pencil grip and posture.

Communicating Through Listening, Speaking & Composing

All of language arts studies should lead students to be purposeful and godly communicators. Early opportunities to practice listening, speaking, and composing play a role in social-emotional development and help students see the purpose of communication. In the BJU Press early learning materials, students will regularly spend time listening and responding to character stories, phonics stories, songs, and more. Discussion times not only build vocabulary and help shape worldview, but they also give students practice in telling stories and relating emotions verbally. Teacher-guided and group composition activities help students develop clear communication skills as they learn how to share personal stories and opinions through the written word.



Relating Biblically to Peers, Authorities & Other People

Preschool classrooms give children important opportunities to learn—not just how to be students in a classroom but also how to get along with people and to do so in a God-honoring way. Biblical worldview shaping themes in each BJU Press preschool course and specific Bible lessons encourage children to see that they learn in order to better serve others. Lessons and stories give teachers opportunities to instill healthy habits in early learners.

Social studies themes develop cultural knowledge so that students can understand the different types of people they will meet and how they can serve them. Suggested group activities and learning centers help children learn how to work and play together under teacher guidance and observation.

Opportunities for Active Learning

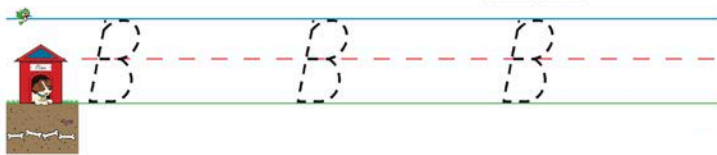
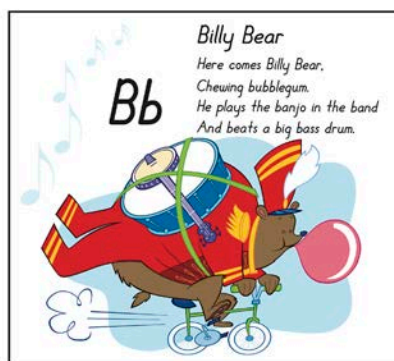
Early learning is all about giving children ways to experience their world that prepare them for deeper experiences in the future. *We fill our early learning programs with ways for students to engage with and discover more about their world and how they fit into it.* Our early learning program is full of manipulatives and activities for hands-on learning. Students will be able to prepare snacks, use letter cards to build words, and use shapes and number lines for shape mastery and number sense, and much more. Arts and crafts segments, motor skills activities, and learning centers all give students opportunities to discover more about their world through intentional play.

Applying the Knowledge of God

Even at an early age, children are able to apply what they understand about God and the Bible to their lives. Using the teaching guides, teachers can highlight healthy habits for children so that they can learn to respect others and demonstrate a strong

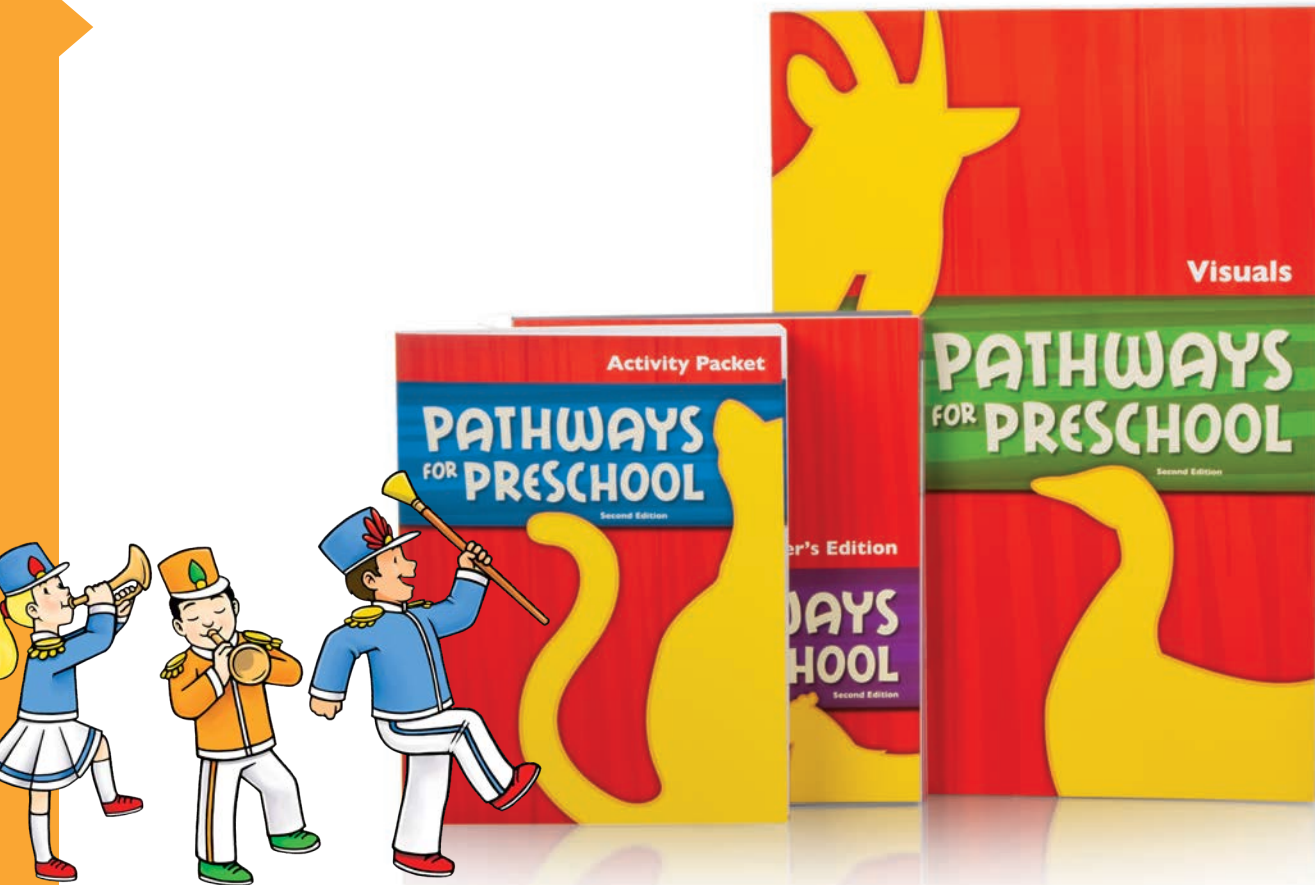


work ethic. Our early learning program expands what students understand about God and helps them apply it as they learn. Teachers can use the Bible Action Truths and biblical worldview themes in each program to direct how their students think, how they approach learning, and how they play. The foundational truths and catechisms redirect how students think about themselves and their world as they learn that God is great and God is good, that God created them and all things, and that the Bible is God's Word and it is true. *As students learn, they can more fully appreciate the wonder of God's creation and give Him glory for it.* By learning, children can serve God and others more effectively.



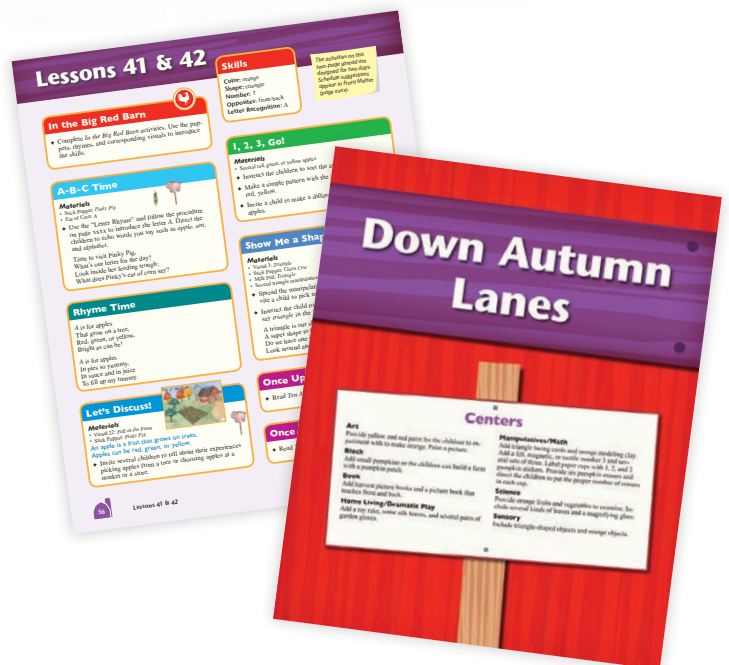
K3

PATHWAYS FOR PRESCHOOL



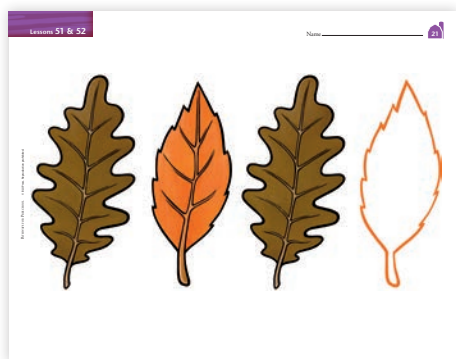
Teacher Edition

The K3 teacher edition is a one-volume collection of ideas for circle times, songs, rhymes, games, crafts, and learning centers that makes daily lesson planning easy. Suggested activities promote pre-reading skills with phonemic awareness and letter recognition. The teacher edition also includes math, social studies, and science segments. The suggested schedule is adjustable to fit 9-, 10-, or 12-month plans.



Teaching Visuals

The visuals packet includes engaging charts and manipulatives that introduce themes, shapes, colors, numbers, letters, and nursery rhymes. Colorful shape manipulatives help children understand pre-math concepts such as counting, sorting, and patterning. The interactive Big Red Barn and barnyard animal stick puppets help children learn letters, numbers, shapes, weather, days, and colors.



Activity Packet

The activity packet contains theme-related pages of activities and crafts. Children learn to trace, match, cut, and color to reinforce the skills and concepts from the lessons.

The Little Green Frog and Other Hoppy Tunes CD

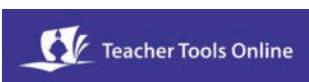
The CD includes traditional and original children's songs for singing, movement, and listening.



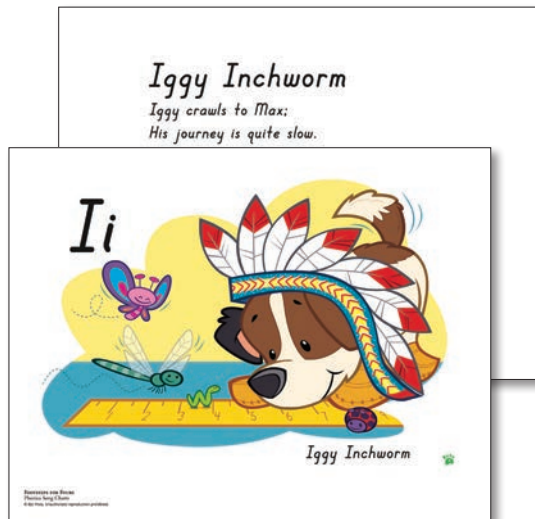


Teacher Edition

The four-volume teacher edition includes teaching notes and daily lesson activities that incorporate prereading skills with phonemic awareness and phonics, math, handwriting, social studies, and science activities. The layout offers activity ideas for 180 half or full days. Additional suggestions are also available for classroom centers, bulletin-board ideas, and snacks.



Teacher Tools Online available



Teaching Visuals, Practice Cards, Phonics Charts & Teaching Tree

This highly visual and interactive program includes visuals, charts, and manipulatives for use with daily lessons. The 80 teaching visuals include charts and manipulatives for teaching colors, shapes, months, dot patterns, clocks, money, seasons, and more. The practice card set includes 50 cards for reviewing letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. The phonics charts and Teaching Tree include 26 phonics songs, handwriting charts, alphabet teaching cards, and the interactive, four-season Teaching Tree.



Hand Puppet & Backpack

Max the dog invites children to participate in the lessons, and the backpack can hold interesting items the teacher brings for class discussion and instruction.

Activity & Writing Packets

Students will use activity and writing packets to reinforce skills they learned in the lessons and to develop hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, handwriting skills, reading left-to-right, alphabetizing, and number order.

Song Files

Digital media files with theme-related songs and listening selections are available on Teacher Tools Online.



Theme Characters

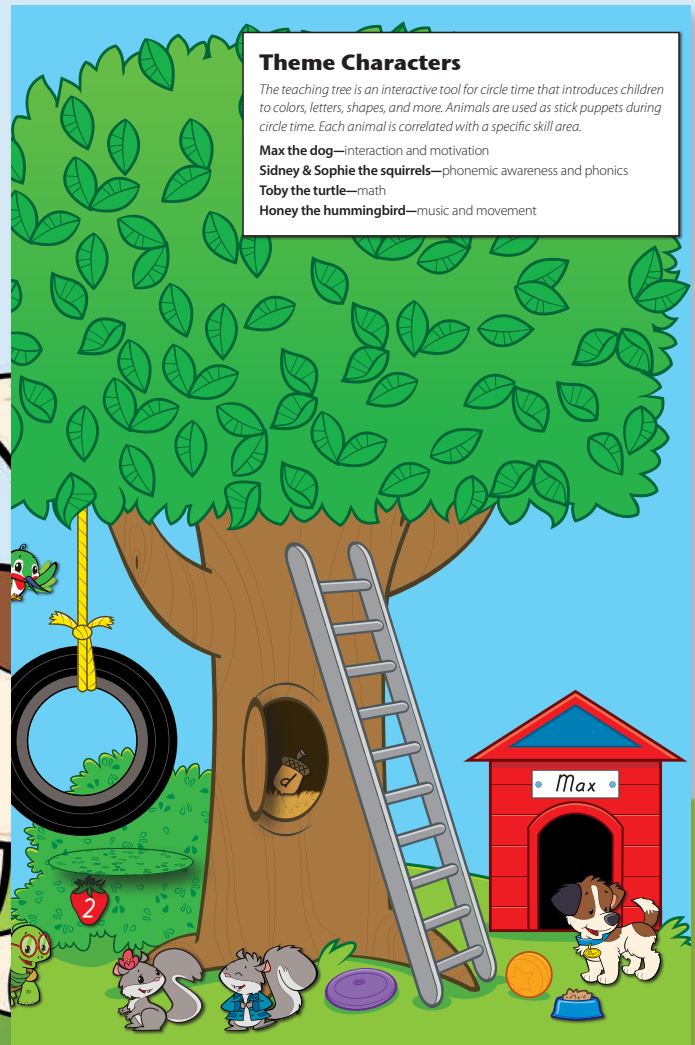
The teaching tree is an interactive tool for circle time that introduces children to colors, letters, shapes, and more. Animals are used as stick puppets during circle time. Each animal is correlated with a specific skill area.

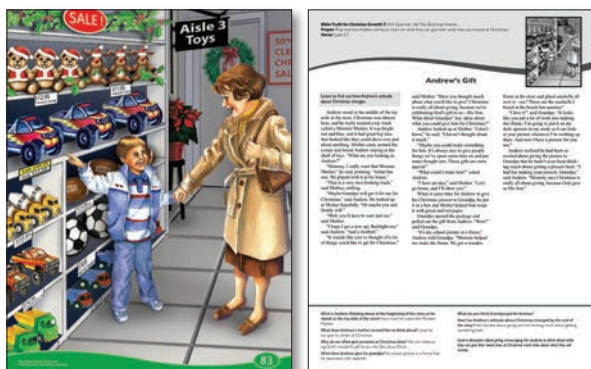
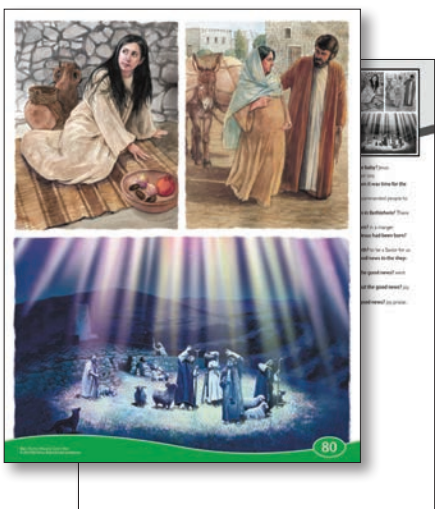
Max the dog—interaction and motivation

Sidney & Sophie the squirrels—phonemic awareness and phonics

Toby the turtle—math

Honey the hummingbird—music and movement





BIBLE TRUTHS: WALKING GOD'S WAY

Teacher's Guide

The 16-page teacher's guide includes an overview of the course and additional suggestions for presenting lessons.

Teaching Cards

165 teaching cards with beautiful realistic artwork and teaching instruction help students learn Bible truths, Bible stories, verses, how to pray, and how Bible stories apply to their lives.

Student Packet

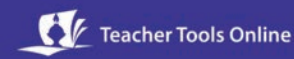
The student packet includes activities that reinforce character traits presented in the lessons.





Teacher Edition

The six-volume teacher edition presents clear instructions for a strong foundation in phonemic awareness, phonics, reading, and writing, as well as introductions to science and social studies.



Teacher Tools Online

Teacher Tools Online available



Student Worktext

The worktext provides daily follow-up to reinforce sounds, science skills, social study skills, and lesson themes.

Phonics Charts & Visuals

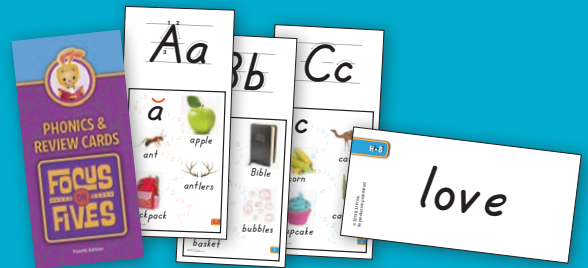
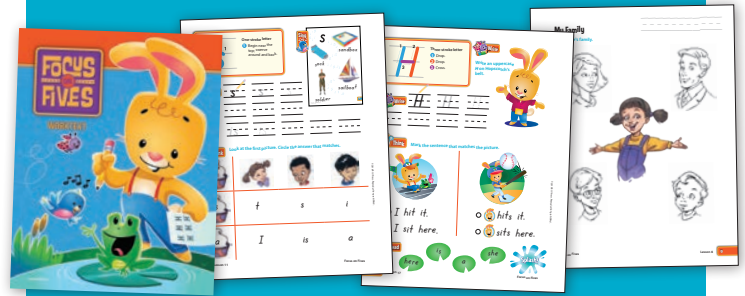
The phonics charts and teaching visuals include wall charts and manipulatives for teaching word-families, high-frequency words, stories, science, and social studies. The reoccurring phonics characters help teach phonics rules.

Phonics Practice

The practice booklet has 30 weeks of additional phonics practice that correlates with the sequence for Focus on Fives.

Phonics & Review Cards

The 115 cards are durable student aids for mastering the alphabet and high-frequency words.



Standard Pocket Chart

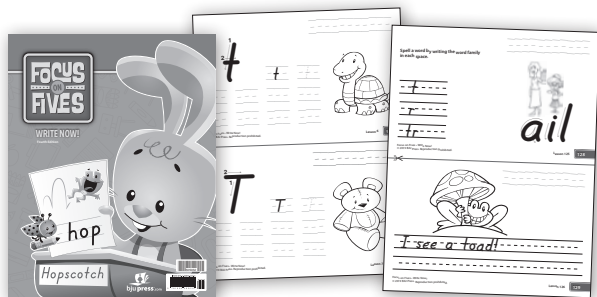
The pocket chart allows easy display for word cards and phonics characters.



Write Now!

The handwriting packet includes letter-and-word model sheets for extra practice with PreCursive handwriting.

WRITE NOW!



Uncle Short



Miss Long



Miss Silent



Marker e



Bossy r

READING BOOKS

Reading Books

The 34 reading books for K5 have short, colorful, fun stories at progressive levels.

Song Files

Digital media files with theme-related songs and listening selections are available on Teacher Tools Online.



K5 BIBLE TRUTHS

Teacher Edition

The teacher edition includes biblical accounts, songs, memory verses, and age-appropriate application and activities.

Teacher's Picture Packet

The teacher's picture packet has 30 colorful classroom-sized pictures that correlate with the lessons.

Student Packet

The student packet includes learning activities, colorful pictures, and memory-verse reminders.

Music CD

The CD provides singing and accompaniment for all songs and hymns in the lessons.

MATH K5

Teacher Edition with CD

The single-volume teacher edition explains how to teach math for understanding, using manipulatives. Daily lessons include suggestions for short practice and review sessions, games, and enrichment plans to make lesson planning simple. Additional teaching resources are available on the teacher's toolkit CD.

Teacher's Visuals

The visuals packet includes 35 charts for teaching and classroom display as well as visuals for demonstrations.

Student Worktext

Worktext pages offer practice and review activities as well as puppets, counters, and mats centered on a farming theme.

Student Manipulatives

The manipulatives packet includes die-cut numbers, counting frames, shapes, place-value pieces, fractions pieces, money, rulers, and more to be used with the lessons.



