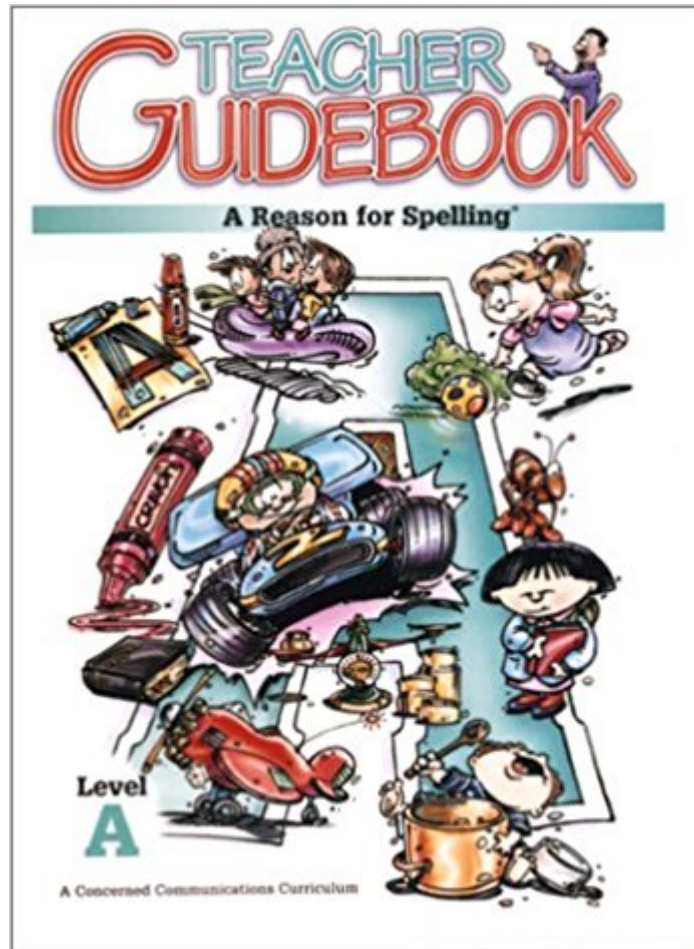


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A Reason For Spelling: Teacher Guidebook Level A



Synopsis

A Reason For Spelling combines the latest research on how children learn to spell with all the strengths of traditional programs. It teaches high frequency base words, plus hundreds of other word form

Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

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Customer Reviews

A Reason For Spelling combines the latest research on how children learn to spell with all the strengths of traditional programs. It teaches high frequency base words, plus hundreds of other word form

There area a lot of curriculums out there where you can get by without the teacher's book - this is NOT one of those. A Reason for Spelling is a wonderful and fun curriculum for homeschoolers or small classes. This is one of the few subjects my children actually enjoy and ask to do first. They love the stories each week, the word searches, scrambles, and other fun activities. The word lists are small and simple. This is where it loses one star . . . As our year is ending I'm comparing our spelling words to other curriculums and thinking that we should be further ahead by now. I also think this program lacks in explaining the phonics rules associated with the groups of words each week. All that said - this is a wonderful start to spelling that your kids will enjoy.

I bought this used and it came in great condition. We just started homeschooling and began to use

this a few months ago as a supplement to reading and phonics. Wow, what a difference it has made with my son's reading and writing.

Enormously disappointed! I am homeschooling, so this is all from that perspective. First the good: The illustrations are great. The variety of ideas for practicing writing each word are good (chalk, sand, say it out-loud, softly, etc). The exercises -find the misspelled word, fill in the blank in the sentence, etc, these are good. The stories are okay, a little too obvious that a "lesson" is being taught and the kid is SUPPOSED to "learned that lesson" or feel convicted about some moral. I don't mind stories with a moral, but there is a point where it is obvious and it takes the fun out of the story. Or the stories were ok, but in a school setting and I had to rewrite those sections as though they were in Sunday school. It just aggravates my kid to hear about what kids are doing in "school," a place he doesn't get to go. Ultimately, I was just so disappointed in the lists. So this is the "A" level book. "A" is the first letter of the alphabet, it is at the beginning, my child is also at the beginning, what would be first grade, so, we started with "A" for first grade. They have a good start with having a list of words with short 'a', next short 'e', etc, but something seems flawed. It seems that for the sake of the story, they missed out on an important component in teaching spelling. The consistency of spelling words from the various "families" -an, -at, -en, -it, -op, etc. The lists in this book include maybe two or three from each family that has a short 'a' (two -an words, two -at words), then the short 'e', etc, but in the end, the lists are all mixed up. Then there are bonus words, advanced words that wouldn't even apply at this grade level, yet. I think this assumes the kids have already become familiar with "spelling lessons." It was very overwhelming for my child. I started out with just following the book, but had to back up and explain the whole idea of having spelling lessons, I even split the lists in half so he could get used to what we were doing. Then they want the teacher to give the kids a pre-test each week without letting the child see the words first, have them just guess at the spelling saying it is a good way to learn because then students are given the correct spelling right away. With my kid, it was a good way of shutting him down. He instantly felt betrayed, I had asked him to do something he couldn't do, essentially, then told him he was wrong. This theory is true, but not applied in this way, this way gets the week started with unnecessary aggravation. In the end, I am thinking this system might work mid-year, after I have trained him on "doing spelling" or start it in second grade. By then, though, I think he'll have spelled most of the words. Ultimately, I gave up, went on line, found a years worth of spelling lists that focus on a word family each week while introducing 3 or 4 sight words at the same time. I am making a couple of my own worksheets each week, and having him do the old-fashioned copy-the-words method, though in a variety of

ways, using the audio, visual, tactile methods suggested. I can dictate sentences to him of the top of my head like any elementary school teacher. I don't know that I'm going to worry about any other published workbooks next year, either.

The book I ordered was in perfect condition, packaged well, and came in pretty fast.

I've been a homeschooling mom for over 6 years now. After using Concerned Communication's A Reason For Writing since the beginning, we stumble on A Reason For Spelling this year. I was tired of "boring" spelling curriculumns, so figured we'd spend the extra \$\$\$ and give this a try. Well, we ALL love it (we're using levels A, C and E for our 1st, 3rd and 5th graders). There is a lot of activities packed into these pages, and you can pretty much pick and choose how much of it you want to do. There are reproducibles in the teachers manuals of additional activities. I'm thinking of using it again next year with all the activities, and I should be able to turn it into our full Language Arts program. One word of warning, DON'T try to use this without the teachers manual, you will be LOST! I find the teacher's manual invaluable!

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