**Early Learning Basics**

Early Learning Basics can be accessed from the *Early Learning* homepage. This feature is designed to teach young learners' essential skills for preschool and kindergarten, including letters, numbers, and early math concepts such as counting and classification. The site is device agnostic, and best used on a computer, or iPad. Personally, I prefer the iPad, because this is scrollable and interactive with the touchscreen.

Basics is broken up into four main sections here at the bottom: fun with words, count and play once upon a time, and welcome to reading.

Fun with words has games, and a song to teach letters and basic sight words. Baby animals ABCs works on tracing your lowercase letters. Animal ABCs teaches the uppercase letters through tracing. Insects and sea creatures both work on sight words with tracing. And then the Alphabet song is a sing along. You can see the letter-by-letter highlight, helping young learners to associate letters as they hear them sung aloud in order.

Click the X to get back. As I click into any of these. I'll see a similar format. Click play to begin the game. If I had already traced any of these letters successfully, I would see a green checkmark. I can click on a letter to see a little preview of how to trace it and each time I successfully trace a letter, I see it used in context. I can continue on or exit.

Count and play works on counting skills. With our stories here from 1 to 10, and 10 to 20.

These are going to be counting, again, read aloud to me. Click the speaker icon to begin, and use the arrows at the bottom to move back and forth. Click the X to exit.

Tracing numbers will look just like what we saw with tracing letters, but it works on your numbers 0 through 9. Butterfly Catch will cover a lot of different basic counting skills and other math concepts. So, I'll start here with catching butterfly's based on their color. You can see it counting up as I catch them, in the top right, and it will move through the different colors here before I am able to move on to my next skill. Between each skill, I'll get congratulations, and then here I'm working on a concept, like least and greatest. Then it goes on to cover counting down, directions, and more.

Once upon a time contains fairytales and nursery rhyme songs that can be read aloud or sung out loud. This is a collection of the stories from within *Early Learning*, but easily accessible here in Early Learning Basics. You can see here, if I select *Cinderella*, I have the same functions. I can have this read aloud with the word-by-word highlight. I use the Arrows to move through the book, and the X to close out. The ones with a music icon will be sung aloud which makes those really fun and engaging for our young learners.

Use the arrow to get back out and that brings us to Welcome to Reading which is our guided reading program here in *Early Learning*. But, again, this time it is interactive. So, it is our 48 texts laid out in sequential order. You can see here I have A1 as my first book and it will continue to move up to A2. I can use these arrows or click on books to move them back and forth. To open one up I simply click “read” and have it read aloud. Now, as I move to the next page it reads aloud automatically. From here I can move directly into my next book, or click the X to return. I can click pick a level to jump from one level to the next, or completely skip a level.

And for grown ups to know, if I click back to the *Early Learning* homepage here in the top right is the “For Grown Ups” section. This is where you can find lesson plans to coincide with that Welcome to Reading program. Click here under guided reading. You can select a matching text and click on the lesson plan to see skills and concepts covered in that text, discussion questions, or topics, and interactive classroom activities.