

## **The NICHD study and the Slingerland Approach**

(From the Slingerland website: <http://www.slingerland.org>)

### **The NICHD Research on Reading**

Conducted by the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). More than 35,000 students have been studied over 33 years at 41 sites. Students were followed longitudinally. The study included both those who were successful and those who were unsuccessful. Early identification methods and teacher training methods were studied.

### **The NICHD Findings on Reading: What works?**

Begin teaching phonological and phonemic awareness directly at an early age (kindergarten).  
Teach frequent highly regular sound-spelling relationships systematically.  
Direct instruction is needed to build fluency in reading text.  
Model for children exactly how to sound out words...and provide practice.  
Provide the child with many opportunities to practice the sound-spelling relationships.  
Use interesting stories to develop language comprehension.  
Reread for fluency.  
Teach the structure of the English language at all levels in reading, spelling.

### **The NICHD Findings and the Slingerland Approach**

The Slingerland Approach meets all the identified criteria for quality instruction. Slingerland characteristics are:

- Simultaneous and multisensory
- Structured
- Sequential, building on previous learning
- Alphabetic-phonetic
- Teaches to the intellect
- Stresses over-teaching and over-learning
- Builds intersensory associations
- Success-oriented
- Low-cost training
- Uses any reading material

### **The National Reading Panel Recommendations and the Slingerland Approach**

The National Reading Panel found that the factors that make a significant difference in improving reading across all groups are:

- Alphabetics - Phonemic Awareness and Phonics
- Fluency
- Comprehension - Vocabulary Instruction and Text Comprehension
- Teacher Education and Reading Instruction
- Computer Technology

The Slingerland® Approach meets all the National Reading Panel recommendations for teaching reading.

To order a copy of their report, visit the NICHD website.  
<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/nrppubskey.cfm>