

## Language Arts in the Real World

Nancy Bjorkman

[www.legacyhomeschool.com](http://www.legacyhomeschool.com)

763-241-HOME (4663)

What is Language Arts? – Communications

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

What is the goal? –

### **Speaking:**

- Age birth – 5
- Goal –
- Learn to speak by speaking

### **Reading:**

- Decode to Fluency - Goal: Learn to read (About age 5 or anywhere between 3 and 9☺)
  - READ!!!! Practice, practice, practice
  - Reading is learned by reading
- Information Stage – Goal: Read to Learn (4th-Jr. High)
  - Read for information and recreation

### **Penmanship:**

- When they're ready
- Copywork both for penmanship and understanding
- May not need a curriculum, need a good model

### **Spelling:**

- As they learn to read, then more formally Grades 3-6
- Traditional approach using phonics and lists
- Words in my life approach
- Copywork will help them “input” things in more than one manner
- Lists

## **Grammar:** Parts of Speech, Punctuation, Capitalization (Grades 4-7)

- Tools
- Studies have consistently shown that “knowledge of the definitions and rules of grammar does not, in itself, improve student writing”. (Beechick)
- “Grammar is not a way to good writing; it is a tool that good writers use to analyze writing to justify doing something this way instead of that way, and so forth.” (Beechick)
- Part to whole – learn a part of speech and do a workbook page
- Whole to part – Read an interesting passage of interest and notice grammatical pieces
- Standardized tests – Usage
- Practical Tips: collect nouns, DO verbs, “Describe & Guess” game, “Guess Who” pronoun game

## **Writing:**

- Best way to learn to write is to WRITE (sound familiar?)
- Workbooks dilute the task of writing. Filling in blanks is not a substitute
- Must at some point learn certain expected forms – outline, essay . . .
- Keep the end goal in sight

### Practical tips:

- Copywork can make for good input
- Dictation
- Rewrite using:
  - First person/third person
  - Change tense
  - Find the pronouns and ID who/what they represent
  - What happened next?
  - Outline
  - Draw a picture
  - Add extra adjectives

## **Literature:**

- Read!!!!
- Exposure over terminology will provide good input and create good output

## **Resources:**

Green Alligators – (P-2<sup>nd</sup>)

Language and Thinking for Young Children (P-2<sup>nd</sup>) – Ruth Beechick

Three R's (K-3<sup>rd</sup>) – Ruth Beechick

Alpha Phonics (K-2<sup>nd</sup>) - Blumenfeld

Games for Reading (K-3<sup>rd</sup>) – Peggy Kaye

Games for Writing (K-3<sup>rd</sup>) – Peggy Kaye

Reason for Handwriting Series – Common Sense Press (K-6<sup>th</sup>)

Pathway Readers (1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) – Pathway Publishers

You Can Teach Your Child Successfully (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) – Ruth Beechick

Jump In Writing (6<sup>th</sup>+) – Apologia

Progeny Press Literature Study Guides (All grades)

Library Card!!!!

Remember your end goal: Effective communication in written and oral form.

Homework: Create a list of your top 10 goals for your children . . .