

Armstrong, Linda. *ABC, Follow Me! Phonics Rhymes and Crafts Grades K-1*.
Columbus, OH: Linworth Learning, 2007. 138 pages. \$24.95. (ISBN: 1586832301)

Armstrong states in the introduction that this book “is intended to supplement other programs” and it does just that. Taking time to explain the uses of her book and why phonics are an important tool in learning to read, she sets up the information in the book in a naturally progressing way.

Each unit provided is specific to one letter, letter combination or letter sound and begins with the “easiest” letters such as M, T, and S and works toward teaching more difficult concepts such as medial consonants and short/long vowel sounds. The units provide examples of letter related songs and chants, craft ideas, and group activities. For the most part the chants are very engaging and bursting for group participation but others fall flat and are almost exactly repetitive of a letter showcased just a few letters before. This may be an insignificant complaint as it would be really difficult to believe that someone using this as a supplement item would use it in its provided order.

The instructions outlined in each unit are easy to understand and most crafts are extremely basic. Armstrong gives the reader the bare bones (and very helpfully) patterns that are easy to photocopy, and then proceeds to give ideas on how to expand your lesson from that point. Sometimes Armstrong uses proper nouns such as Max and Nat in her word examples that seems out of place from her otherwise well thought out choices.

Overall, this book provides easily useable examples of projects and songs that are extremely well suited to the subject. Its best home would be on the reference shelf of teachers and librarians responsible for story hours.

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