

# Tucker Signing Strategies for Reading

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## Summary:

Bethanie H. Tucker, Ed.D. has worked with students of all ages since becoming an educator in 1972. After teaching reading in a primary classroom for four years, she became a Title I instructor, teaching Reading Through Art to struggling readers in years 2 through 7. She taught and later coordinated classes for gifted students, then became professor of education at Averett University, Danville, Virginia.

While teaching at Averett, Dr Tucker field-tested the concept of using hand signs to build letter-sound associations. She developed this concept over a number of years. It was an outgrowth of a variety of experiences – studying American Sign Language, observing active young readers struggle with the reading process and searching for ways to monitor more precisely how the minds of children work.

The strategy has been working – one child at a time. The hand signs began to unlock the mystery of decoding unfamiliar words for non-readers of all ages. Continued success with the pilot program led to grant-funded projects and, finally, to working with Dr Ruby K. Payne and aha! Process, Inc., based in Highlands, Texas.

## Supporting Resources:

- Tucker Signing Strategies for Reading – Just for Kids! DVD* (AHA0642)
- Tucker Signs Reference Cards CD* (29093)
- RTI & Differentiated Reading in the P-8 Classroom* (SOT1854)

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