



Young Audiences Western New York

Phonics Program: Alphabet Awareness

Grade Level: K-1st

Residency length: 8 sessions

1 student showcase

Art Forms: Literary, Dance, Music

The Phonics Program: Alphabet Awareness improves sound and letter recognition for early childhood students. Students participate in eight, 30-minute reading readiness workshops, including the final performance that use recognition and cultivate elementary literary skills.

Kindergarten students studying the consonants learn 21 original songs and movements that correspond to American Sign Language. First grade students studying the vowels learn 20 songs, signs, and corresponding movements. Between the workshops, teachers can use the accompanying workbook to underscore the learning with visual art activities while students listen and sing along to the songs. Each residency culminates in a student performance for families or the rest of the school. Created by dancer Cindy Hanna, musician Jerry Raven, and educator Marna Burstein, the program is now presented by our artist teams: musician, John Lombardo and dancer, Angela Hastings; and musicians, Frank Grasanti and Jenny May. By acknowledging that all students do not learn in the same way, or at the same rate, the Phonics Program addresses the needs of those students who struggle with the traditional approach to reading.



"The Phonics Program reaches out to grab learners of varying abilities. Linking the letter shapes and sounds to music and sign language helped my students to really have fun while they learned and engaged certain students who have struggled in the past." -- BPS #69 Houghton Academy, teacher

Residency Goals and 21st Century Skills Addressed:

Some Examples could be:

- Critical Thinking and Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Collaboration
- Self Direction
- Invention

New York State Educational Standards:

- *Art Standard 1: Creating, Performing, and Participating in the Arts*
- *Art Standard 2: Knowing and Using Arts Materials and Resources*
- *Art Standard 3: Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art*
- *Art Standard 4: Understanding the Cultural Dimensions and Contributions of the Arts*

Common Core Learning Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF. K.1; 1.1 - Print Concepts
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF. K.2; 1.2 - Phonological Awareness
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF. K.3; 1.3 - Phonics and Word Recognition

ARTS FOR LEARNING

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