

# The Sunform™ Alphabet System

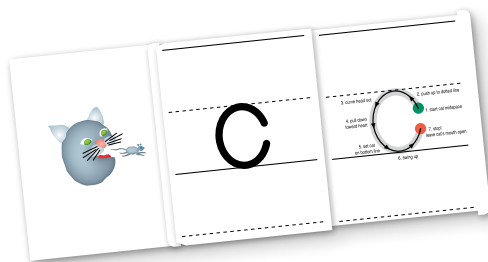
## Integrated Pictograph Mnemonics

Sunform simultaneously teaches the 26 beginning letter-sound symbol correspondences, letter names, and letter formations to automaticity. Most students will begin blending in 6–8 weeks before transitioning into letter formation instruction. Daily 15–20 minute scripted lessons are appropriate for Pre-K, K, Tiered intervention and

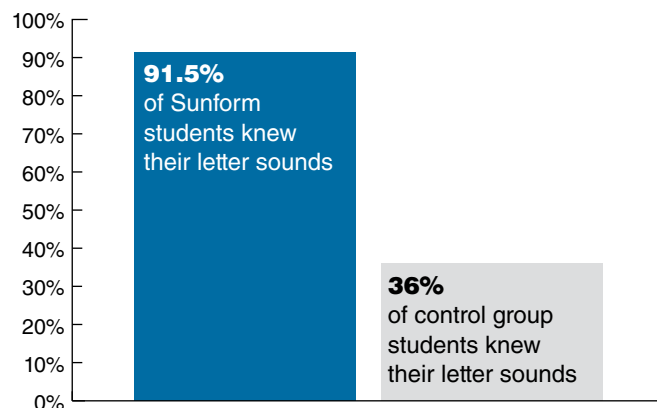
Special Education.

This innovative approach to establishing the letter-sound proficiency foundational to

the development of word-reading skills is consistent with Orthograph Mapping Theory (Ehri & Roberts, 2006), Phases of Word Reading Development (Ehri, 2020) and the latest research on alphabet learning (Roberts, 2021).



### Underserved Preschoolers Become Beginning Readers



In a Chicago Public Schools preschool study\*, Sunform students learned 91.5% of their sounds while the control group students learned 36% of their sounds.

\*Massengill Shaw, D., & Sundberg, M.L. (2008). At-risk preschoolers become beginning readers with neurologically integrated alphabet instruction. *Journal of Education Research*, 2(1), 61-73.

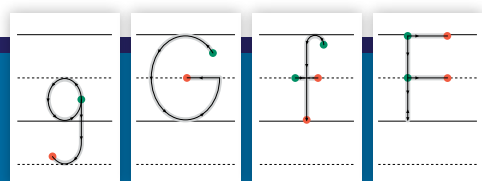
Ehri, L.C., & Roberts, T. (2006). The roots of learning to read and write: Acquisition of letters and phonemic awareness. In D.K. Dickinson & S.B. Neuman (Eds.), *Handbook of early literacy research* (Vol. 2, pp.113–131). New York, NY: Guilford.

Ehri, Linnea. (2020). The Science of Learning to Read Words: A Case for Systematic Phonics Instruction. *Reading Research Quarterly*. 10.1002/rrq.334.

Roberts, T.A. (2021). Learning Letters: Evidence and Questions From a “Science of Reading” Perspective. *Read Res Q*, 00(00), 1–22.

“After two months of instruction, eight of my 12 students were already at the blending stage; they had learned all 26 letter pictures in just two weeks! Having this pre-reading edge going into kindergarten will be very beneficial for the students and their teachers”

**Kim Villanueva, Teacher**  
*Chappell Child Development Centers in Jacksonville, FL.*



# The Sunform Alphabet System

## How it Works

Each non-consumable Sunform pictograph-clue-letter sliding instructional device integrates visual, auditory and motor movement cues. Emotionally engaging stories, images, clues and alliterations activate the right and left brain hemispheres, transforming abstract, non-phonetic symbols into meaningful, phonetic letters for children as young as four.



Each kit includes 26 non-consumable devices, a *Getting Started Guide* with pacing charts and activities/games, and two sets of picture, clue, lower case and upper case letter wall cards. Handwriting blackline masters and training videos are downloadable at no charge. Optional consumable student handwriting books facilitate developmentally appropriate motor movements and directionally correct letters.

**Step 1: Trace picture.**

**Step 2: Trace octopus.**

**Step 3: Trace Motor Plan.**

**Level 1**

**Model** Trace around each octopus.

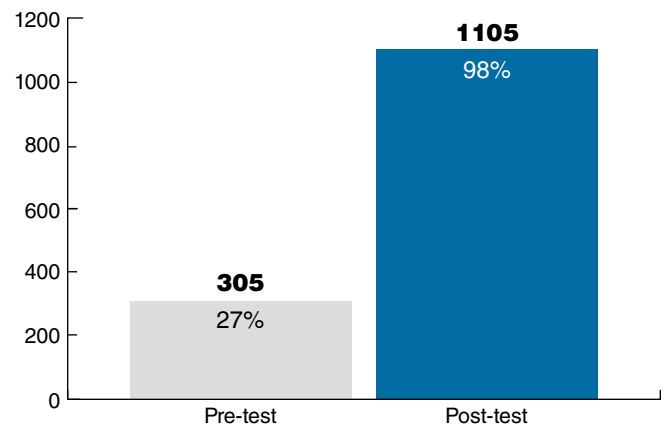
Trace each red octopus letter.

**Level 2**

Trace each red octopus letter.

Start at midspace and copy 4 octopuses.

## Response to Intervention Tier1/Tier2



43 Chicago Public School students who had failed kindergarten, mastered sounds and handwriting in just 51 hours of summer school.

Massengill Shaw, D., & Sundberg, M.L. (2008). How a neurologically integrated approach which teaches sound-symbol correspondence and legible letter formations impacts at-risk first graders. *Journal of At-Risk Issues*, 14(1), 13-21.

“We’ve seen huge improvements with our ELLs. Those who started Tier 2 knowing 12–13 letter sounds were the ones who exited after 3 weeks.”

**Lisa Umans**

*ELL Resource Teacher  
Mundelein School District 75.*

Integrated motor movement and letter order based on fine-motor copying skills (Beery, Buktenica and Beery, 2010) are key Sunform ingredients. Program author Mary Lou Sundberg theorized that by appealing to a student’s right visual gestalt hemisphere, synapses could be caused to occur in the temporal (auditory) and frontal (motor movement) lobes in a way that would elicit auditory recall of letter sounds and formations.

Beery K. E., Buktenica N. A., and Beery N. A. (2010). *The Beery-Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration: Administration, Scoring, and Teaching Manual* (6th ed.). Minneapolis, MN: Pearson.

6/2021

## ABOUT VENTRIS LEARNING

Our language & literacy resources help educators better meet the needs of students who become underserved in literacy. To learn more visit [www.ventrislearning.com](http://www.ventrislearning.com).

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