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# Literacy Beginnings: A Prekindergarten Handbook



## **Synopsis**

For prekindergarten children, language and play are the major tools for learning about the world, and they are also the most important tools for early literacy learning. The three- or four-year-old who takes a memo pad and marker around to family members "to take orders" for dinner, like all young children, makes no distinction between play and reading and writing. It all involves curiosity, learning, discovery, and excitement. Watch an overview webinar! In their latest professional book, Gay Su Pinnell and Irene Fountas show you how to tap into young children's excitement to introduce them to the world of literacy in joyful, engaging ways. As with their Continuum of Literacy Learning for grades K-8, they provide detailed descriptions of language and literacy behaviors and understandings for teachers to notice, teach, and support, while offering practical strategies for the prekindergarten classroom. Full of resources like songs, rhymes, and finger plays, Literacy Beginnings also includes 35 ready-to-use lessons to introduce young children to reading and writing. Start reading now!

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 4 - 5 years

Grade Level: Preschool - Kindergarten

## **Customer Reviews**

Gay Su Pinnell is a professor in the School of Teaching and Learning at The Ohio State University. She has extensive experience in classroom teaching and field-based research, and in developing comprehensive approaches to literacy education. She has received the International Reading

Association's Albert J. Harris Award for research and the Charles A. Dana Foundation Award for her contributions to the field of education. She is also a member of the Reading Hall of Fame. Together with Irene Fountas she has authored numerous books, videos, and websites with Heinemann that are considered standards in the field of literacy instruction and staff development. Their latest innovations are The Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention and The Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System, a comprehensive assessment system for grades K-8. Fountas and Pinnell have influenced the classroom practices of teachers nationwide through bestselling titles such as: The Fountas & Pinnell Prompting Guide 1 (2008) When Readers Struggle (2008) The Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Book List, K-8+ (2009-2011 Edition, Print Version) The Continuum of Literacy Learning, Grades K-8 (2007) The Continuum of Literacy Learning, Grades K-2 (2007) The Continuum of Literacy Learning, Grades 3-8 (2007) Teaching for Comprehending and Fluency: Thinking, Talking, and Writing About Reading, K-8 (2006)

[www.FountasandPinnellLeveledBooks.com](http://www.FountasandPinnellLeveledBooks.com) Leveled Books, K-8: Matching Texts to Readers for Effective Teaching (2005) Guided Reading: Good First Teaching for All Children (1996) Guiding Readers and Writers: Teaching Comprehension, Genre, and Content Literacy (2001) Interactive Writing: How Language & Literacy Come Together, K-2 (2000) The Primary Literacy Video Collection Series of DVDs: Guided Reading; Classroom Management; and Word Study (2006) Word Matters: Teaching Phonics and Spelling in the Reading/Writing Classroom (1998) The Reader's Notebook Help America Read and Coordinator's Guide (1997) In addition, through Heinemann's firsthand line of classroom materials, Fountas and Pinnell have authored Phonics Lessons (Grades K, 1, and 2), Word Study Lessons (Grade 3), Sing a Song of Poetry, and their corresponding word and picture cards. These materials are used in thousands of classrooms throughout the country. Fountas and Pinnell together present workshops nationwide on a variety of literacy-instruction topics through Heinemann Professional Development. Irene C. Fountas, a professor in the School of Education at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has been a classroom teacher, language arts specialist, and consultant in school districts across the nation and abroad. She works extensively in the literacy education field and directs the Literacy Collaborative in the School of Education at Lesley University. Together with Gay Su Pinnell she has authored numerous books, videos, and websites with Heinemann that are now considered standards in the field of literacy instruction and staff development. Their latest innovations are The Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention and The Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System, a comprehensive assessment system for grades K-8. Fountas and Pinnell have influenced the classroom practices of teachers nationwide through bestselling books such as: The Fountas & Pinnell Prompting Guide 1

(2008) When Readers Struggle (2008) The Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Book List, K-8+ (2009-2011 Edition, Print Version) The Continuum of Literacy Learning, Grades K-8 (2007) The Continuum of Literacy Learning, Grades K-2 (2007) The Continuum of Literacy Learning, Grades 3-8 (2007) Teaching for Comprehending and Fluency: Thinking, Talking, and Writing About Reading, K-8 (2006) [www.FountasandPinnellLeveledBooks.com](http://www.FountasandPinnellLeveledBooks.com) Leveled Books, K-8: Matching Texts to Readers for Effective Teaching (2005) Guided Reading: Good First Teaching for All Children (1996) Guiding Readers and Writers: Teaching Comprehension, Genre, and Content Literacy (2001) Interactive Writing: How Language & Literacy Come Together, K-2 (2000) The Primary Literacy Video Collection Series of DVDs: Guided Reading; Classroom Management; and Word Study (2006) Word Matters: Teaching Phonics and Spelling in the Reading/Writing Classroom (1998) The Reader's Notebook Help America Read and Coordinator's Guide (1997) In addition, through Heinemann's firsthand line of classroom materials, Fountas and Pinnell have authored Phonics Lessons (Grades K, 1, and 2), Word Study Lessons (Grade 3), Sing a Song of Poetry, and their corresponding word and picture cards. These materials are used in thousands of classrooms throughout the country. Fountas and Pinnell together present workshops nationwide on a variety of literacy-instruction topics through Heinemann Professional Development.

The name of the authors is why I initially decided to pay \$40 for this book. I should say upfront I am glad I did not wait for used copies to become available. I had next step questions & assessment questions I hoped reading over the summer would clear up to strengthen my know-how for next school year. I reflected on my observations, lesson plan notes and pictures from last school year and Literacy Beginnings provides "hooks" that took my thinking to the next level. The authors being former classroom teachers anticipated those questions that come up when teachers plan and included them in the chapters. Since I was not with my teaching team, I read the questions in the chapters and spoke into a tape recorder or jotted down my response. When I returned to the material I was able to connect what I knew to what I wanted to know with the chapter titles, pictures of children and examples of work done by the children. The first chapter is basic but necessary to make sure I was on the same page in terms of theory and what it looks like in a busy classroom. I hope this review helps another teacher. I am new at this. I have worked in pre-k for 6 years and I was sort of shaky about why I did certain things with certain kids if I did not make a note. This resource helps me feel good about last semester and gives me firm steps to take me into next year.

This is a phenomenal book! I've read it through word for word and refer back to it frequently. It's

packed with great ideas that you can implement in our classroom right away. This summer, I'm organizing a book study of the book with some transitional kindergarten teachers in my district. I'm excited to see the ideas that are generated from it! I highly recommend the book!

As an Early Childhood Special Education professional, I now consult with and provide professional development for Early Childhood professionals in public school and community based programs. SCRIBBLE SCRABBLE: BECAUSE PREWRITING IS LITERACY, TOO and HIGGELTY PIGGELTY BUMBLE BEE, WON'T YOU LEARN YOUR NAME WITH ME have been growing topics in recent years. There have been scant publications with strong, experiential examples and suggestions, especially regarding beginning recognizing of one's name and name writing. During my last workshop, the first since acquiring this book, the book was sent around the room for each to examine. They loved it!!!! The teachers were enthusiastic about the information I shared from the text and their personal book examination. Many left saying they'd go back to their sites to ask that this be bought for them. Thank you, authors Fountas and Pinnell, you have filled a long standing void in our field.

Great for a refresher and finding some new ideas

GREAT RESOURCE!!Great resource when working with small groups! Our Interventionists are also using it with our Intervention groups with at risk first graders too!

I used Gay Su Pinnell's literacy books when teaching kindergarten, first grade, and third. Now have a Three-year old grandson. So, I knew I wouls like it. This book is fantastic! Great, great ideas to use. The book is very well organized.

Great price on valuable resource

Helpful textbook for classroom teachers...developmentally appropriate practices for young learners

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