

My favourite Language arts program is Smart Start in Language Arts. It is designed for grades 1-2 but I am using it with my son who needs remedial work. There are so many things that I like about the program.

I like that it has not only phonics but also sight words. So many programs out there offer one to the exclusion of the other. It is important to have a balance. It has enabled him to start reading 'real' books much faster.

I also like that each letter is introduced with a puppet and a story. It really holds my son's interest. My son is ADD so holding his interest is challenging. Smart Start in Language Arts also now has a CD of games to help hold interest as well as reinforce concepts.

My favourite thing about Smart Start in Language Arts is that it ties what your child learns in one area to another. When my son was using different workbooks for each area of language arts he had a hard time tying what he was learning in one workbook to other aspects of language arts. Now with Smart Start in Language Arts he learns a letter or combination of letters and a sight word each day. He then uses those same words each week in his writing, spelling, and handwriting. He builds on the previously covered concepts and words. This also really builds his confidence.

My son's favourite part of Smart Start in Language Arts is the books that he makes himself. He uses the vocabulary words or words from his own dictionary to make little books that we 'publish' for the rest of the family to read.

Smart Start in Language Arts contains phonics, writing, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and dictionary skills. If you are looking for a language arts program then look at Smart Start in Language Arts, it is a good solid program that I would recommend to anyone who is teaching a child to read for the first time or as a remedial program.

R.K.

Saskatchewan