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## Seeing it a little clearer

### Program shows promise for beginning readers

By Jo Gray/Correspondent  
March 5, 2004

**FORESTBURG (Special)** - Eighteen years after Rudolf Flesch's book, "Why Johnny Can't Read," was published, many Johnnys still can't read.

So, what can be done about it?

There are no simple answers, but the Forestburg Independent School District (FISD) found one innovative program that works.

The district implemented the program - Read Right - two years ago.

Dr. Dee Tadlock, a former teacher with a Ph.D. in reading, developed the program after her son had problems learning to read. Rather than allow him to be placed in special education classes, she decided to teach him herself.

She knew every child did not learn the same way. The root cause of reading problems, according to Tadlock's discovery, occurs when a network of brain nerves guides reading incorrectly.

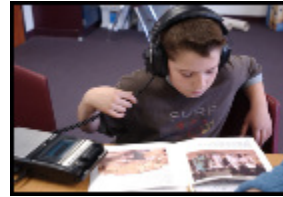
She developed a program and tried again with her son.

In three months, he was reading.

In 1991, she started the program at a local timber company to help the employees learn to read. The program was so successful that the company expanded Read Right to all 19 of its manufacturing plants. Other companies, including Boeing and Weyerhaeuser, heard about its effectiveness and implemented Read Right classes of their own.

Slowly, the program expanded into school systems.

Forestburg is one of four schools in Texas that uses the program. Decatur High School is another.



Becky Chaney/Times Record News

Hunter Marshall, a student at Forestburg Middle School, follows along in his reading book as he listens to the tape of someone reading to him. He then removes the headphones and reads on his own. He is using a new program called Read Right that teaches him to read.



Becky Chaney/Times Record News

Fonda Huneycutt, school superintendent, was able to purchase a new reading program, Read Right. The program has helped students learn to read at a faster rate.

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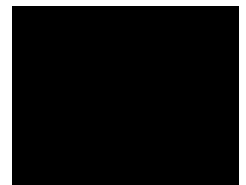
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Fonda Huneycutt, FISD superintendent, is excited about the results.

The material used by each student is determined by the child's problem instead of the age or grade of the student.

At Forestburg, all grade levels, as well as special education, are involved in the program. A recent check of results showed the regular education students in the elementary level gained one grade level per 14 to 18 hours of tutoring.

The same methodology works for all grade levels, Huneycutt said. The student is always in charge of his or her own performance.

"You can have excellent readers with a lot of your students using the traditional methods, but some just don't get it," Huneycutt said.

"It is a big problem and not as easily fixed as some people think. The Read Right program serves as a safety net for students who do not learn to read when taught by the traditional phonics methodology. It is a methodology that offers results for dyslexic and ESL students," she added.

Another plus side of the Read Right program is that it doesn't require a certified teacher to serve as a tutor. The two tutors currently working with the program in Forestburg are teacher aides who have been trained as tutors by Read Right.

The program is expensive but well worth the investment, according to Huneycutt.

"I can't tell you the exact cost but the ballpark figure is \$80,000," she said. "We've had a three-year pay out plan and we just finished paying for it."

Grants and Title I funds have paid for the program, Huneycutt said.

"We've not paid one cent out of local funds. It's not taking away from any child."

Huneycutt said she believes all children can learn but not all through the same process.

On the Net: [www.readright.com](http://www.readright.com)

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