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### **KEY SYNTHETIC PHONICS TEXTBOOK FOR TEACHERS LAUNCHED**

*Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, and Singapore (September 11, 2007) – Using Phonics to Teach Reading and Spelling* is the subject of a key new textbook by John Bald, published this week by Paul Chapman Publishing, a SAGE imprint.

Following on from the recommendations of the Rose Report, Bald explains why teaching phonics works, and how to present irregular as well as straightforward features of English.

Accessible for both qualified and trainee teachers, the book provides a basic introduction to teaching reading and spelling using phonics, offering practical, easy-to-use ideas for the classroom. The book supports a language-rich curriculum, teaching reading and spelling through games, songs and stories, and an accompanying CD includes photocopiable resources and INSET materials.

Bald offers advice on how to choose the best resources, including introductions to Fast Phonics First; Jolly Phonics; and Read, Write Inc. The book also offers advice on how to help the weakest readers, including ways to track progress, choose supporting materials, and engage individual learners.

In his foreword to the book, Professor Roger Beard, Head of Primary Education, University of London, notes Bald's significant role in the literacy education field for many years. Although a practical resource, this book sets out to interest his audience, as well as to advise them, "so that the work that they do with children is underpinned with an appreciation of the 'why', as well as the 'how'."

Lorna Gardiner, General Adviser - Foundation Stage, North Eastern Education and Library Board, Northern Ireland said "Teachers – and particularly Literacy Co-ordinators or SENCOs - who are enthusiastic about children's learning and about their own professional development will undoubtedly benefit from using this book and CD, with its combination of useful explanation and practical resources to support the implementation of the ideas."

Bald commented "I have tried to take account of all factors involved in learning to read, and am confident that the teaching techniques in this book, for spelling as well as reading, will help teachers and children to make sense of a system which is based on phonics, but in which phonics do not always work.

"The case studies represent a real change for the better in people's lives, and I hope they provide a practical demonstration of how to explain the complexities of English in a way that children and adults understand. I welcome discussion of the approach from teachers, parents and learners."

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**To arrange an interview with John Bald** contact Mithu Mukherjee, 0207 3242223/  
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***Using Phonics to Teach Reading and Spelling*** by John Bald is published by Paul Chapman Publishing, a SAGE imprint. Copies are available in both paperback and hardback. For further information visit <http://www.sagepub.co.uk/booksProdDesc.nav?contribId=617938&prodId=Book230578>. **To receive a review copy** contact [mithu.mukherjee@sagepub.co.uk](mailto:mithu.mukherjee@sagepub.co.uk).

**John Bald** is author of *The Literacy File*, and *Using Phonics To Teach Reading and Writing*. He has written over 100 articles and reviews for the *Times Education Supplement* and *Guardian Education*. John is an experienced inspector, and now works as an independent teacher, consultant and journalist.

John currently also writes a blog: <http://johnbald.typepad.com/language>, and can be contacted at [johnbald@talktalk.net](mailto:johnbald@talktalk.net)

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