

Pointers **For Parents**

Reading Instruction

by Andrea Pastorok, Ph.D.

(NAPSA)—On January 9, 2002, President Bush signed an education bill that includes a commitment to teaching reading, with an emphasis on phonics over other methods of early reading instruction.



Dr. Pastorok

Research shows that the majority of children learn best if they are exposed to a reading program that is balanced and comprehensive. Such a program includes phonics, sight word vocabulary and whole language.

The Kumon Method, which was developed in Japan, incorporates the benefits of an all-inclusive approach—phonics as well as exposure to and immersion in rich literature. It teaches young children the necessary reading readiness skills through the following:

- Games using alphabet boards
- Sound letter posters
- Worksheets
- Reading aloud
- Listening to CDs
- Singing
- Recommended reading lists

and

- Flashcards.

The Kumon Philosophy is based on an independent, or self-learning approach. This “learn by doing” concept enables children to determine answers on their own, building their confidence along the way. This helps a child focus on his assignments, improves concentration levels and ultimately increases self-confidence and self-esteem.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.kumon.com.

Dr. Andrea Pastorok is the education specialist for Kumon North America.