

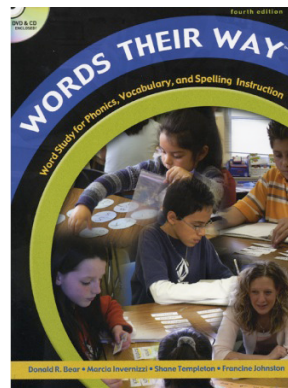
## Getting to Know Words Their Way™

---

**Introduction** This guide introduces the background, philosophy, and benefits of *Words Their Way™: Word Study in Action*.

---

**Background** *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action* was built upon the foundational text *Words Their Way: Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction*.



This foundational text was developed by noted researchers Donald R. Bear, Director of the E.L. Cord Foundation for Learning and Literacy in the College of Education at the University of Nevada, Reno; Marcia Invernizzi, Professor of Reading Education at the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia; Francine Johnston, Associate Professor in the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; and Shane Templeton, a Foundation Professor of Literacy Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno.

These experts developed *Words Their Way: Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction* based on scientific research regarding invented and developmental spelling. This teacher resource book provides the “how-to” knowledge for engaging students in word study. The authors built it upon the five predictable stages of orthographic development. For more information about orthographic development, read the guide titled *What is Word Study?* on [myPearsonTraining.com](http://myPearsonTraining.com).

The success of the instruction from *Words Their Way: Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction* led to the development of *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action*. *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action* is an official, ready-to-use companion to the foundational text.

---

**Five Essential Reading Components** In April 2000, the National Reading Panel issued a report describing how children learn to read. The Reading First initiative was established as a result of this report. This initiative focused on the five areas

---

of reading instruction needed to successfully teach children to read. These five areas are phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action* addresses each of these five essential reading components.

---

## Phonemic Awareness

In *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action*, students follow a specific pattern to develop phonemic awareness. First, students identify picture names that begin with the same sound. Next, they isolate and say the first sound in picture names. Then, they identify and categorize rhyming words. After that, students build words by substituting consonant and consonant blend sounds. Finally, they blend the words with various word families.



---

## Phonics

To develop phonics skills, students sort pictures and/or words by initial sounds, ending sounds, consonant blends or digraphs, word families, and vowel sounds. They learn to analyze letter-sound relationships and to identify words in word families.



---

## Fluency

Students listen as teachers model fluency by reading poems from the *Big Book of Rhymes* and books from the Words Their Way Library.



---

**Comprehension** Students develop their comprehension skills with *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action* by learning to read words quickly and accurately through word study. This helps them read with greater understanding.

---

**Vocabulary** To expand their vocabulary, students learn the meanings of words by sorting them according to categories, such as big things and little things. With *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action*, students also learn the meaning of the words by manipulating and sorting them.

---

**Instructional Impact** *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action* is a supplement to teachers' current reading program. It provides interactive, hands-on instruction for phonics, vocabulary, and spelling. The program provides systematic, explicit, and sequenced instruction based on assessment results. In addition, the foundational text *Words Their Way: Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction* provides a professional development opportunity for educators.

It is also important to understand what *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action* is not. It is not just for spelling, and it is not a scripted reading program. It is also not a computer-based program, and it should never be used for silent seat work or for workbook pages.

---

**Benefits** By teaching with *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action* for fifteen to twenty minutes a day, teachers can create several positive results. They can help students increase their knowledge of spelling patterns and better understand the meaning of specific words. Teachers will engage students in grouping sounds, words, and pictures into specific categories with photographic picture cues.

Teachers will also meet the Reading First requirements by focusing their instruction on the five essential reading components. With *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action*, teachers can identify and focus on individual student needs through assessment and differentiated instruction.

For more information on *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action*, please watch the other tutorials on [myPearsonTraining.com](http://myPearsonTraining.com).

---

**Review** This guide discussed the background, philosophy, and benefits of *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action*. It went through the five essential reading components, as well as the instructional impact of *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action*.