

make a mistake. I also began writing his life story during this time, so other people were helping care for him.



During the time when he refused to read with me he'd willingly learn new words like "wheat" on outings with the boys!

29. HE DIDN'T SEEM TO THINK THAT THE OTHERS KNEW THAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO KNOW HOW TO READ. He seemed to almost feel relieved to have that little bit of time with others, and not be expected to learn new vocabulary words. So thank the Lord, He never fails!

30. DAVIDITO BEGAN TO SHOW PROGRESS AGAIN, and by July 11th he had learned a recorded 546 words! It was very difficult to tell exactly how many words he could read at that time because he was reading simultaneously several new American Golden Books. But I tried to continue to count the words when I knew that he could read them, just to get some kind of vague written record.

31. IT REALLY ENCOURAGED HIM WHEN WE READ TOGETHER AND HE BEGAN TO SPEAK OUT BY FAITH AND READ on his own. If he came across a word he did not know, and would hesitate or turn his head away, I would say, "When you don't know the word, just tell me, because I'd like to tell you. Sometimes I'm wrong too, you know, and he learned the sounds fast,

but we can work together on it!"

32. BY MID-JULY '77 DAVIDITO WAS LEARNING NEW WORDS AS HE CAME TO THEM IN BOOKS. In other words, he was teaching himself his new vocabulary as the word was presented to him in the text.

33. IT WAS AT THIS TIME I FIRST READ THE BOOK "HELP YOUR BABY TO READ" by Joy McMillan. I was surprised to see that many of the exercises and suggestions given in her book were the same as those I had tried with Davidito, such as making your own books and beginning with teaching vocabulary through association with picture and word, Mr. Wordman, etc.

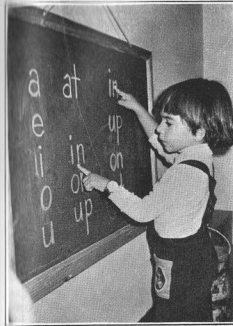
34. BY THE TIME DAVIDITO HAD BEEN READING FOR SEVEN MONTHS, I DEFINITELY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT YOU MUST TEACH PHONETICS AS YOU GO. He was no longer going at such a fast pace of learning new vocabulary words by sight, but was showing more of an interest in actually picking up the book for himself and reading it.

35. WHEN HE WOULD COME TO A NEW WORD, HE WANTED TO KNOW THAT WORD RIGHT AWAY. The only way to teach him was by sounds and letter combinations. He already had figured out for himself and knew most of the more familiar sounds such as "th", "ing", "sh", "oo".

36. DAVIDITO WAS STILL SENSITIVE AT THE TIME ABOUT HIS FEAR OF FAILURE and making a mistake. (Aquarians are famous for being perfectionists!) So I was forced to have to teach him phonetically even though it came a bit hard and much slower than learning to read by sight.

37. YOU CAN MAKE IT VERY FUN AND IT SEEMED TO ENCOURAGE HIM

but the teaching procedure itself is very slow. I kept reading to him and if he ever did not know a word I would always tell him and sound it out at the same time. The only actual phonetics "taught" him were the two-letter sounds, such as "ay", "ch", "ee",



"ew", "wh", etc., which took about one full week. Then I read to him the other sounds as we came across them in his reading.

38. I WAS MEANWHILE TEACHING HIM MORE WORDS BY SIGHT according to his own interest and desire, and oftentimes when he came across a new word in his reading I would write it down in the wordbook. During this lull of about two months when his reading progress seemed very slow and unsure, he learned to read about 100 more words, or 650 words recorded (although this may not be exactly accurate because I believe he could read much more than those actual words), and 15 books plus the 25 books that I had made for him myself.

39. BY MID-AUGUST '77, AFTER READING FOR ONLY EIGHT MONTHS, DAVIDITO COULD READ WELL OVER 750 WORDS, and 1,000 words by October-- and is reading more and more and more every day! By Jan. '78 he wants to read whatever he can, including the Daily Might for colony devotions!

MAKE YOUR OWN BOOKS!--IT'S FUN!

At first I used simple pictures taken from colouring books and one large red word!



These are similar to pages in the Baby's Basic Words books put out by W.S.