

Published in the NY Daily News, Dec 15, 2021.

Diminishing returns

Los Angeles: The Daily News editorial "[Reading the research](#)" (Dec. 14) invites us to "read the studies" showing that children who receive explicit phonics instruction score higher on tests of reading. Yes, let's read the research on phonics. I have. The Daily News experts have not read all the studies, including those that show that while children following an intensive, decoding-based curriculum initially do better on tests of decoding (sounding out words), they do not do better on tests of reading comprehension given after the training ends. *Stephen Krashen, professor emeritus, Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California*

Sources: Not included in published version of this letter – .

Read the studies:

Krashen, S. 2009. Does intensive reading instruction contribute to reading comprehension?

Knowledge Quest 37 (4): 72-74. <https://tinyurl.com/jc6x8mk>

McQuillan, J. 2018. Is synthetic phonics instruction working in England?

<http://backseatlinguist.com/blog/is-synthetic-phonics-instruction-working-in-england-updated/>