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- **Today's reading problem.**

Submitted to the Kent (Wa) Reporter, Sept 26, 2019

Re: Give Parents an Education Savings Account with \$10,000 so children can learn phonics (Sept. 26).

Today's reading problem is that some so-called experts have not kept up with reading the research on phonics. Contrary to the Reporter's article, deep instruction (known as "intensive systematic phonics") in phonics is not "settled science."

In their public pronouncements, phonics supporters fail to mention studies that show that "deep" phonics teaching only improves scores on tests in which children pronounce words presented on lists. Deep phonics teaching does not improve scores on tests in which children have to understand what they read. In contrast, children who develop a pleasure reading habit do well on both kinds of tests.

Stephen Krashen

Original article: <https://www.kentreporter.com/opinion/give-parents-an-education-savings-account-with-10000-so-children-can-learn-phonics/>