

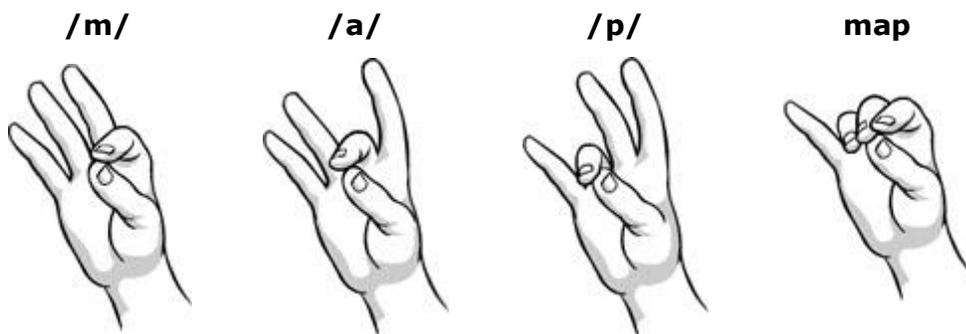
Wilson Reading System® Description:

The Wilson Reading System is a research-based reading and writing program. It is a complete curriculum for teaching decoding and encoding beginning with phoneme segmentation. WRS directly teaches the structure of words in the English language so that students master the sounds and spelling. Unlike other programs that overwhelm the student with rules, the language system of English is presented in a systematic and sequential manner that it is manageable. It provides an organized, sequential system with extensive controlled text to help teachers implement a multisensory program.

The basic purpose of the Wilson Reading System is to teach students fluent decoding and encoding skills to the level of mastery. From the beginning of the program, it also includes sight word instruction, fluency, vocabulary, oral expressive language development and comprehension. Through a structured lesson plan, designed to be very interactive between teacher and student, is followed. The lessons progress from easier to more challenging and then spelling.

Wilson directly teaches the structure of words in the English language with an organized and sequential system with 12 steps. Steps 1 and 2 teach segmentation skills (the ability to separate the sounds in a word) and blending the sounds together again. Initially utilizing monosyllabic words and segment sounds within words. In addition to using sound cards, the Wilson program uses a unique "sound tapping" procedure in these early steps. For example, when teaching the word "map" three lettered cards are put on the table to represent the three sounds in the word. The student is taught to say a different finger to his or her thumb, as follows:

- As he says the /m/ sound, he taps his index finger to his thumb.
- As he says the /a/ sound, he taps his middle finger to his thumb.
- As he says the /p/ sound, he taps his ring finger to his thumb.
- He then says the sounds as he drags his thumb across the three fingers starting with his index finger to his ring finger.



Other MSL programs include counting of sounds by various techniques, but Barbara Wilson believes that the sound tapping of fingers to the thumb is essential for students in successfully learning to blend sounds as well as segment them. As the student succeeds at reading and spelling words (beginning with three sounds, he then moves on to words with four sounds, then five, and so on. At the end of Step 2, the student is able to fluently blend sounds in a closed syllable.

Beginning in Step 3, multisyllabic words are used and the student is systematically taught to segment syllables in words. Steps 4-6 teach syllables, open syllables, suffix endings, and consonant-*le* syllables. The students have extensive practice with controlled vocabulary for application. Comprehension is addressed with vocabulary work and through the development of visualization skills with the reading of 100 words. Mastery, including fluent application, is required for progression at each step. Instruction after Step 6 combines continued "word attack" comprehension and an emphasis on the application of skills with non-controlled text as well as controlled text. In steps 7-12, more complex word structure is taught.