Early childhood general and special educators and administrators are in a continuous process of discerning which research-based and newly emerging methods for teaching of phonics are most viable and engaging for the children in their classrooms and district-wide. This paper proposes the use of the Touch User Interface (TUI) technology platform to create a multi-sensory phonics program "workbook" with digital elements and will discuss the benefits of the use of this "smartpaper" technology. The phonics workbook sits in an electronic cradle and can call up video, audio, or other multimedia content designed to facilitate and reinforce standards-driven phonic understanding using multiple meaning based symbol systems by sending an infrared signal to a nearby internet-connected computer or a DVD player connected to a television. The ability of the learner to process phonic information via visual and verbal modes will enhance the phonological understanding via meeting the diverse learning styles of children.

There are numerous potential benefits to the Smartpaper environment for enhancing children's phonic learning in terms of cost and meeting a wide-array educational needs:

1. Smartpaper reduces the cost of textbooks while increasing the amount of content. We can do this because of our use of the TUI (touch user interface) technology.
2. Different media types are supported, including audio, video, American Sign Language (ASL), sub-captioned, Braille, and text.
3. Smartpaper text will help hold students accountable for learning by tracking their use of the textbook (web).
4. The content will excite and stimulate student learning because the content is interactive and robust.
5. Finally, our textbook will help increase test scores and student learning via supporting multiple avenues and pathways (verbal; textual; visual; and audial) for information to be encoded and decoded.