

PARENT UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

What families need to know about ...



PHONICS

Phonics teaches children the relationships between the letters of written language and the individual sounds of spoken language. It teaches children to use these relationships to read and write words. This knowledge helps children to recognize automatically familiar words and to decode (figure out) new words. This skill improves children's word recognition, spelling, and reading comprehension.

Below are phonics skills that children learn in school:

- Recognize that letters have corresponding sounds.
 - Recognize similarities and differences in letter shapes.
 - Match familiar consonant sounds to appropriate letters.
- Identify the letters and their corresponding sounds.
 - Identify all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
 - Identify letters matched to sounds.
 - Generate the sounds associated with individual letters and letter patterns.
- Use these skills to decode words in grade-level texts.
 - Identify and name uppercase and lowercase letters in words—beginning with the letters in the student's name.
 - Identify similarities and differences in letters and words.
 - Blend letter sounds in one-syllable words, and read these words fluently.
 - Recognize and apply short vowels, long vowels, and y as a vowel.
 - Use the following concepts to decode and read unfamiliar words: hard and soft consonants, consonant digraphs, blends, vowel patterns, R-controlled vowels, final consonants, and diphthongs.

- Identify and apply vowel patterns and blends to help with fluency (the ability to read orally at a rate that sounds like speech).
- Use a known word-part to decode unknown words; for example, car->card.
- Break words into familiar parts: compound words, contractions, possessives, inflectional endings, word roots/base words, prefixes, and suffixes.

How You Can Help Your Child at Home

- Practice the sounds of language. Read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems, and songs. Play simple word games. For example, “*What words do you know that sound like the word bat?*”
- Help your child take apart and put together spoken words by listening for beginning and ending sounds and combining separate sounds.
- Reinforce the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them and by reading alphabet books.
- Point to labels, boxes, newspapers, magazines, and signs that show the letter-sound relationships your child is learning.
- Listen to your child read words and books. As your child is reading aloud, point out words that were read incorrectly and help your child identify the words correctly. Talk about the meaning of new words so your child will be able to comprehend what is being read.
- Reread familiar books.
- Visit the library often.
- Set an example for your child—read together every day!