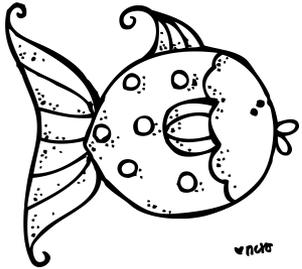


SOUND IT OUT!

LIPS THE FISH

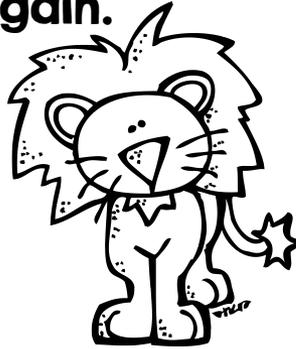
Say the first few sounds. Read the end of the sentence and say it again.



As your child learns phonics patterns and becomes more and more familiar with the sounds letters make we often encourage them to use different strategies when they are faced with a word they have difficulty reading. Often we may say "sound it out!" but there are many more ways to help encourage your child to read a difficult word. Here are some ways to "sound it out!"

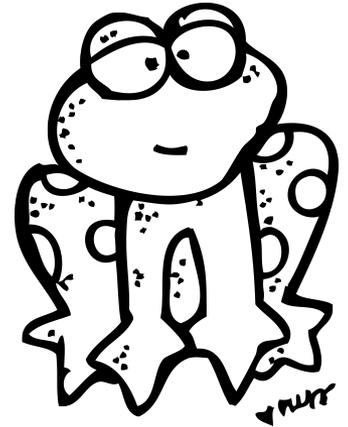
LISTENING LION

Does the word make sense? If not, try again.



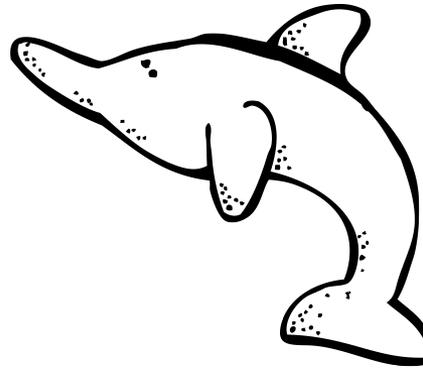
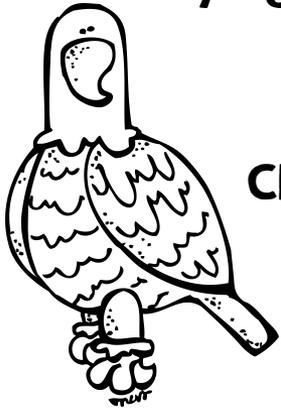
SKIPPY THE FROG

Stuck on the word? Skip it, read the rest of the sentence and hop back!



EAGLE EYES

Check the pictures for clues to help you.

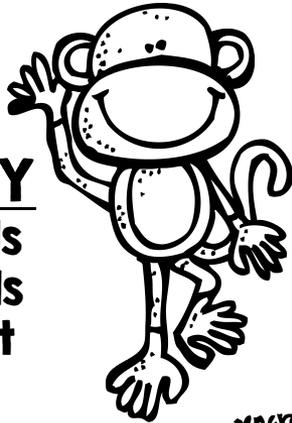


FLIP THE DOLPHIN

Try the short vowel sound, then try the long vowel sound to sound it out.

CHUNKY MONKEY

Look for little words inside bigger words to help you sound it out.



STRETCHY SNAKE

Stretch the word out slowly. Say the sounds together to say the word.



DIFFERENT WAYS TO READ WITH YOUR CHILD

READ ALOUD

- Complete a picture walk before reading.
- Discuss/Predict what will happen.
- Track print as you read.
- Ask questions before, during and after reading.
- Point out details in the illustrations.
- Use different voices for the characters.

ECHO READ

- Complete a picture walk before reading.
- Discuss/Predict what will happen.
- Track print as you read.
- Read a sentence or page. Have your children echo the sentence or page back to you.
- Ask questions as you read.

CHORAL READ

- Complete a picture walk before reading.
- Discuss/Predict what will happen.
- Track print as you read.
- Read the story out loud together at the same time.
- Your child will use your guide if they are stuck on a word.

FOLLOW ME

- Complete a picture walk before reading.
- Discuss/Predict what will happen.
- Track print as you read.
- Begin by reading aloud. Stop in the middle of a sentence.
- Have your child read the next word.
- Continue reading aloud.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

What is phonological awareness?

Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize that words are made up of sounds. Under the term phonological awareness, students are expected to develop phonemic awareness skills. Phonemic awareness is more specific in that it focuses on the just the sound of the phonemes. Phonemic awareness tasks should include pictures or auditory tasks, not letters.

Why is phonemic awareness important?

Children with good phonemic awareness skills are better at spelling, decoding and writing.

When should my child master these skills?

The chart to the right outlines the development of phonological awareness skills children ages 5-7 and typically when they are mastered.

Age	Skill	Example
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying Rhyme - Clapping/Counting Syllables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which two words rhyme? "cat, mit, sat" (cat/sat) - cat (1 syllable), turtle (2 syllables)
5 ½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blending onset/rime - Producing a rhyme - Matching initial sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "What is the word" c-at, d-og, b-ig - "Tell me a word that rhymes with hug" (bug, mug, etc.) - "Say the first sound in sock" (/s/)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compound word deletion - Blending 2-3 phonemes - Phoneme segmentation of 2-3 phonemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Say birdhouse, Say it again without bird." (house). - /b/ /i/ (bye), /sh/ /i/ /p/ (ship) - "Say the word as you move a chip for each sound" (m-a-n)
6 ½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phoneme segmentation of 3-4 phonemes - Phoneme substitution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Say the word as you move a chip for each sound" (s-t-o-p) - "Change /d/ in dig to /b/. What is the new word?" (big)
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sound deletion (initial/final) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Say seat. Say it again without the /s/". (eat) - Say bite. Say it again without the /t/. (bye)

WHAT ARE THE FIVE DOMAINS OF READING?

How can you help your child become a better reader? By exposing them to the five domains of reading! The five domains of reading are five components that all of us must master to become better readers. When reading with your child at home check to see how many of the five domains you are practicing!

1. Phonemic Awareness:
The ability to understand that each word is made up of sounds. We can tell how many sounds are in a word, which words rhyme or even change a word by changing one sound.

2. Phonics:
The ability to know which letters make which sounds. We can decode (sound out) words while we read. We can spell words based on phonics patterns.

3. Vocabulary:
The ability to understand what a word means. We can give a definition or use the clues in the story to help us determine the meaning. The more words you know the more you will understand the story!

4. Fluency:
The ability to read quickly, accurately and with expression. We can read smoothly, we don't have to sound out each word and we can change our voice for different characters or punctuation.

5. Comprehension:
The ability to understand what happened in the story and why. Comprehension makes us dive deep. We analyze the characters, plot, and purpose of the story. We can answer questions before, during and after reading that show we understood the text as a whole.



READING ALOUD: WHY SO IMPORTANT?



When your child becomes a more independent reader, we often let him or her read on their own and stop reading aloud as often. It's understandable since we want them to practice reading aloud and independently but it's important to remember that reading aloud is important for children of all ages. Even adults enjoy listening to books read aloud on tape. Take turns each night deciding who will read. When you read aloud to your child you are giving them time to sit and think about what they are listening to without the pressure of sounding out words or making sure they are reading smoothly. Listening to books read aloud also allows children to hear new words they may have difficulty reading on their own. If you want your child involved while you read aloud, be sure to track print and tell them you want to see them watching while you read. Don't forget to ask questions before, during and after reading too!

TEN WAYS TO BUILD VOCABULARY!

1.

Word of the Day:

Choose a new word each day to be the word of the day. Teach your child what it means. Use it for them throughout the day and encourage them to use it too!

2.

Board Games:

Play board games that focus on using words such as Apples to Apples, Taboo, Blurt, Scategories, or Boggle. Ask your child to use the words in a sentence. If they can't, model it for them.

3.

Go Digital:

There are many different websites and mobile device applications (apps) that help kids practice new vocabulary. Check out these: Tiny Hands First Words, Bugs and Buttons, Endless Alphabet, Peek-a-boo Barn, My PlayHome.

4.

Detective:

Find a word in a book that you don't know. Write it down, use the dictionary to look up the meaning. Try using the clues from the story to figure it out before you read the definition.

5.

The Alphabet Game:

Give your child a category (ex. girl's names, foods, animals, etc.). Challenge them to the alphabet game. Go back and forth saying a word for each letter of the alphabet. A-alligator, B-bear, C-cat, D-dog, until someone can't think of anymore.

6.

Make Your Own Dictionary:

Use a notebook or journal to make your own dictionary. Draw pictures to help you remember what the words mean instead of definitions.

7.

Describe it:

How many words can you think of to describe it? While eating breakfast, lunch or dinner challenge your kiddo to describe how the food tastes, feels, smells or sounds using as many adjectives as they can.

8.

Don't Say it!:

While riding in the car or sitting at home designate a "no-no" word that you can't say for the day (for example, mom or go). Instead of saying the word they must use a synonym.

9.

Word Jar:

Create a word jar of words that are tricky when reading at home. Choose one word from the jar each week to learn and use in conversation.

10.

Cut it Up:

Take an old newspaper or magazine and cut up words that are tricky to read. Glue them into a journal or on a piece of paper. Look up the definitions and use them in a sentence.

TEN WORD GAMES!

Word games are a great way to practice many different domains of reading! Here are some word games to play at home!

1.

Guess My Word:

Give your child clues to a word you are thinking of. It rhymes with.... It starts with.... It would be used to describe.... A synonym is....

2.

Beach Ball Words:

Write words on a beach ball. Toss it to your child. Have them read the word that is under their right hand. Toss it back and forth.

3.

Magnetic Letters:

Make words with magnetic letters on the refrigerator or any magnetic surface. Give your child the letters, tell them the word and see if they can make it.

4.

Sock Game:

Put word cards down on the floor. Have your child stand in their socks. Call out the word and see how quickly they can step on it!

5.

Dot Game:

Laminate word cards. Be sure to review words before playing. Use an Expo marker to draw a dot on the back of one of the cards. Don't let your child see which one. Lay cards out on the floor or a table. Have your child guess which word is hiding the dot!

6.

Shaving Cream:

Put shaving cream (or sand/paint) on a plate. Write a word using your finger. Have your child read it.

7.

Newspaper Words:

Give your child a word. Have them use a highlighter and find it in the newspaper. Highlight it when they've found it. Count how many times they've found it.

8.

Show and Tell:

Give your child a whiteboard and a marker. Call out a word. Have your child write it/draw a picture for it/write a sentence (choose a different task depending on your child's needs) for it and show you on the whiteboard.

9.

Tic-Tac-Toe:

Draw a tic-tac-toe board. Write a word in each box. Before each turn the player must read the word.

10.

Card Games:

Copy or write two sets of word cards. Play a card game such as Go Fish or Memory.