

PHONICS

Unlocking to the Code

Phonics is the key to accurate word reading and spelling. Phonics **helps children understand** that the relationship between letters and sounds is like a code and once the code is learned, accurate reading and spelling begins to be unlocked!

What is Phonics?

Phonics involves teaching the link between letters or spelling patterns and their associated sounds to be able to read and spell accurately.

Why does Phonics matter?

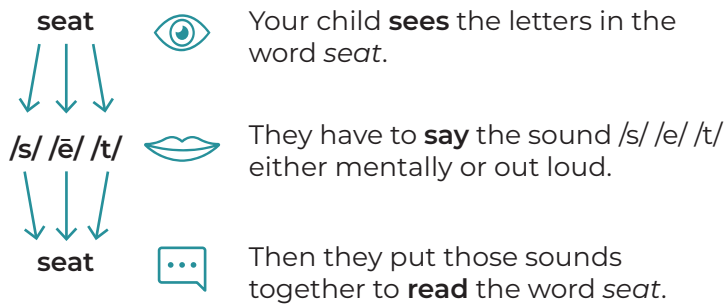
Learning to read involves understanding how letters and spelling patterns represent sounds within words.

In order to read a word, a child must know the correct sounds associated with each letter or spelling pattern in the word, and in order to spell, a child must know the letter or spelling patterns associated with each sound in a word. Learning phonics allows a child to do both of these processes.

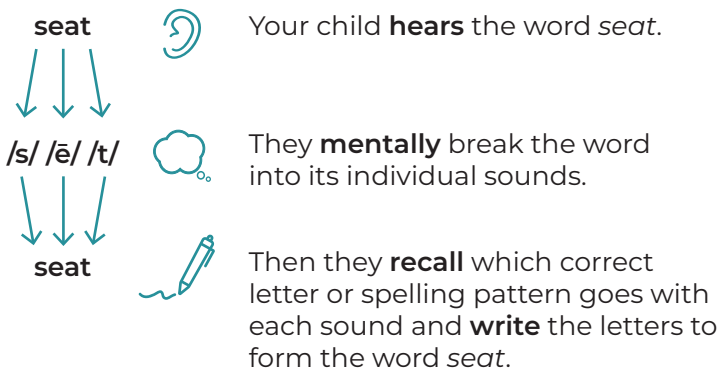


Once a child learns that the letters **-ck** together **say /k/** like in *back*, they will be able to **read -ck** in any word they come across.

Reading/Decoding



Spelling/Encoding



What does Phonics instruction sound like?

Reading/Decoding

Together, the letters **-ck** are one way to represent the sound **/k/** when they are at the end of a single syllable words like in the words *back*, *tick*, and *lock*.

When you see **-ck** at the end of a word you say **/k/**.

Spelling/Encoding

Together, the letters **SH** make the **/sh/** sound like at the beginning of the words *ship*, *shell*, and *shop*.

When we hear the sound **/sh/** we write **SH** like in the words *wish*, *cash*, and *push*. When I hear those words, I hear the **/sh/** sound at the end, so I know those words end in the letters **sh**.

Activities to practice Phonics at home



Listen to your child read daily. When they come across an unfamiliar word, encourage them to say the sound the letter(s) represent and blend the sounds together to read the word.



Letter and sound hunts: Search your home or neighborhood for words that begin with or contain a certain letter or sound. You can look through books, magazines, yard signs, or road signs as examples!



Practice spelling and word building. Use words that contain letters and sounds that your child knows. Using materials such as colored pencils, crayons, or magnetic letters can make it more interesting!



Model! When reading a word, show your child how you can read each letter or spelling pattern in the word by saying the appropriate sound and blending the sounds together. When spelling a word, show your child how you can break apart the word into its sounds and spell each sound to form the word.

