

PHONICS

Definition

Phonics is the ability to understand the relationships between letters and the sounds they represent. Decoding is the ability to apply your knowledge of letter-sound relationships, including knowledge of letter patterns, to correctly pronounce written words.

Word Decoding and Phonics

This website gives information about decoding, what a child who struggles with decoding feels like, and what can be done to help. There is access to numerous articles from research that has been conducted.

Ideas for Home

- Make letter-sounds and have your student write the letter or letters that match the sounds.
- Play word games that connect sounds with syllables and words. (For example, if the letters “p-e-n” spell pen, how do you spell hen?)
- Point out words that begin with the same letter as your student’s names (for example, John and jump) Talk about how the beginning sounds of the words are alike.
- Hunt for words. Choose a letter and have your child hunt for five items beginning with that letter sound. As each object is found, help your student write the word on a list. For example, if the target sound is /m/, the student might find and write mop, mat, Mom, money, microwave.
- Recognizing shapes is the beginning of recognizing the features of letters. Have your child sort letters by tall letters, short letters, and letters that dive.
- Ask your child to name stores, restaurants, and other places that have signs. This is called environmental print.
- Use errands and stores as an opportunity for learning! Ask questions like, “Can you find something that has a letter c? Can you find a words that begins with an M? Can you find a word with 4 letters? Praise all efforts and make it into a game.

- Play “Memory” or “Go Fish” using alphabet cards.
- Reading alphabet books to your child and eventually ask him/her to name the letters on the page that you know he/she can successfully tell you.
- Make blend sounds (/bl/, /pr/, /sc/, etc.) and have your child write the letters that match the sounds.