

What is PHONICS?

Phonics is the ability to understand the relationship between letters and the sounds they represent. This includes:

- recognizing print patterns that represent sounds;
- syllable patterns; and
- word parts (prefixes, suffixes, and root words).

Vowels

a, e, i, o, u, y

Consonants

b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z

Common Consonant Digraphs and Blends

bl, br, ch, ck, cl, cr, dr, fl, fr, gh, gl, gr, ng, ph, pl, pr,
qu, sc, sh, sk, sl, sm, sn, sp, st, sw, th, tr, tw, wh, wr

Common Vowel Digraphs

ai, au, aw, ay, ea, ee, ei, eu, ew, ey, ie, oi, oo, ou,
ow, oy

Common Consonant Trigraphs

nth, sch, scr, shr, spl, spr, squ, str, thr

Phonics

Activities

Letter-Sound Recognition Activities

- Write a letter on one end of each popsicle stick. On two or three other popsicle sticks, write KABOOM. Put all sticks letter-end down in a cup. Take turns pulling popsicle sticks from the cup. Each time you pull a stick, say the letter name and the sound the letter makes. If a KABOOM stick is drawn, that player must put all of their sticks back into the cup. The game is over when all letter sticks have been pulled.
- Write letters on sticky notes, and spread them out across a table top. Say a letter sound and have your child swat the letter that makes the sound.
Alternate version: Once your child learns all of the letter sounds, you can say a word and have your child swat the letters that spell the word (in order).
- Use sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch formation. In each box, write a letter. On the squares that go two across, write the letters found in digraphs or blends. When your child jumps on a square, he/she will say the letter's name and sound. When your child jumps on the crossbar, he/she will say the name and sound of the letter in the left box, then the right box, then shout the sound the digraph or blend makes together.
Alternate version: Play the game with only vowels, but have your child give the long and short vowel sounds. Crossbars can have vowel digraphs.
- Identify which letters and sounds your child needs help with. Write the focus letter names on sticky notes and stick them to bowls (one bowl for each letter). Collect small toys and objects from around the house. Have your child say the name of an object and sort it into the bowl with the correct letter.
- Create cards with pictures of simple objects that contain a short vowel sound. Create a card for each short vowel sound. Help your child match the word on the picture card to the correct short vowel card.
Example: <https://youtu.be/EGf2IL9eALg>
- Place magnetic letter tiles on the refrigerator. Call out letter names or letter sounds, and have your child swat the appropriate magnet with a spatula.

- Write the alphabet in a letter arc, or a curved shape starting with A and ending with Z. Ask your child to identify various letters and letter sounds. You can also ask them to think of a word that starts with a certain letter.
Examples: <https://youtu.be/QvN70v1QRHI> https://youtu.be/_MPZ6KAKC9k
- Have your child use play clay to roll out and make the shapes of different letters. Call out the name or sound of the letters and watch them build the letter shapes.
- Print out a nursery rhyme on a piece of paper and read it to your child. After reading, ask your child to circle a certain letter (uppercase and lowercase) throughout the story. When your child circles each letter, ask them to make the sound for that letter. Ask your child to write the letter while saying its sound.
Example: <https://youtu.be/-jkl7Plx834>
- Write letters on individual pieces of paper. Ask your child to spell a word using the letters. After your child spells the word correctly, ask them to name each letter sound in the word.
Example: https://youtu.be/AOzTD_z-6yM
- Identify letters that your child needs extra practice identifying and sounding out. Using a piece of junk mail, help your child scan through a paper and identify each of these letters. Once they identify the letter, ask them to say the letter sound.
Example: <https://youtu.be/CzhHCH0r3gA>
- Help your child learn how adding a silent “e” at the end changes the word. For example: plan changes to plane, at changes to ate. Explain how adding the silent “e” to these words makes the “a” say its name (long vowel sound).
Example: <https://youtu.be/yKGL63QQUo4>
- Create a chart with different r-controlled vowels (ar, er, ur, or, ir). Read a word and ask your child to identify which r-controlled vowel they hear. After sounding out the word, ask your child to write the word in the appropriate column of the vowel chart.
Example: <https://youtu.be/QKlw3-f6Cgc>
- Create a chart with various words that contain the long “o” vowel. Write the word with the letters that make the vowel sound missing. Ask your child to fill in the missing letters and say the word aloud. Talk about the word and its meaning.
Example: <https://youtu.be/olDOvqyl-Eo>
- Vowel diphthongs happen in words that have two vowel sounds that combine in the middle of the word. Example: coin, boat, bean). Play Bingo with your child using words that contain vowel diphthongs. After reading the word, ask your child to identify which two vowels the word contains.
Example: <https://youtu.be/WewWhd7VQnE>

Word Blending Activities

- Cut a toilet paper roll or paper towel roll in half. On one half, write consonants, consonant blends, or consonant trigraphs spaced around the edge. On the other half, write rimes spaced around the edge. Put the pieces on the bottom of a wire clothes hanger. Have your child spin the rolls to make new words.
- Stack three Styrofoam or plastic cups. On the first cup, choose six consonants to write around the outside edge. On the middle cup, write the five vowels around the outside edge. On the third cup, write 6 consonants around the outside edge. Have your child spin the cups to create new words to read.

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Alternate version 1: Replace the vowels on the middle cup with vowel digraphs.

Alternate version 2: Replace the consonants on the first and last cups with digraphs, blends, or trigraphs.

Alternate version 3: Add a fourth cup. Write *e, s, es, d, ed, ing* around the edge to create new words.

- Play word building board games such as Scrabble®, Boggle®, or Word Up® with your child.
- Write the names of six different letters on notecards or square pieces of paper, being sure to use vowels and consonants. Play a game with your child to see who can create the most words out of the letters given.
- Use magnetic letter tiles to practice reading word family words. Place two magnets beside one another to make a word family word. Let your child add different letters to the beginning of the word family letters to make new words. Have your child read the words fluently before building a new word.
- Spread a small amount of shaving cream on a table or counter top. Call out letter names or letter sounds and have your child write the appropriate letter in the shaving cream.
- Using letter beads, have your child make word jewelry by stringing together different beads on string or pipe cleaners to make words.



- Help your child practice spelling words using letter cut-outs. Start with words with two sounds (like it or up) and move to three sounds. Use the word in a sentence. Sound out the letters for each word as your child is working. Make corrections and praise your child's effort.

Example: <https://youtu.be/N0lvwxoNV8g>

- Using a picture card, help your child identify each letter sound in a word. Use small objects to place on the picture card to represent each sound in the word. Then, ask your child to say the whole word while sliding their finger across the picture.

Example: <https://youtu.be/Cwi2TctQYY0>

- Cut a paper into small squares and write various beginning letters on each square. On a different square of paper, write the end sound. (Example: the ending sound is "op" for mop, top, and pop, which have various beginning letters) Help your child create new words as you rotate between the beginning letters and sounds.

Example: <https://youtu.be/YqCmnbbVBjg>

- Cut up a note card and write different letters on each piece. Say a word for your child to build using the letters. As they pick each letter, ask them to say the letter sound. When the word is formed, ask your child to say the whole word together. You can also talk about the word meaning after it's spelled.

Example: <https://youtu.be/34cj31WTP6s>

- Create a chart with pictures of words at your child's level that rhyme (Example: sheep and sleep, chick and stick). Using cards with different letter sounds, help your child identify the letter sounds for each word. Help your child place the letter sounds on the chart and then say the word parts individually. Then, have your child blend the word parts together.

Example: <https://youtu.be/hhLImG-MkWA>

Multisyllable Word Activities

- Write the most common English syllables on notecards. Hold the cards up and have your child practice reading the syllables.
- Have your child use newspapers, magazines, and books to hunt for words with a specific syllable. Have your child read the words and keep a list of all the words they collected for each syllable.
Example: "Look! I found *table* and *apple* to go under Consonant-le, because *ta/ble* and *ap/ple* both have consonants followed by the letters -le in the second syllable!"
- Write the most common English syllables on different sticky notes. Have your child put stickies together to create words (real or nonsense). Have your child practice reading the words they make.
Alternate version: Have your child only make real words from the syllable stickies. After building the words, have your child read the words fluently.
- Using a muffin tin with six cups, label each cup with a different syllable type. Write the most common English syllables on small pieces of paper and have your child sort them into the correct cup.

6 Syllable Types:

Closed (VC, CVC)
Vowel-Consonant-e (VCe)
Open (V, CV)
Vowel Team
Vowel-r
Consonant-le (C-le)

Most Common English Syllables:

ing, er, ter, al, ed, es, tion,
re, oth, ry, ex, en, di, bout,
com, ple, con, per, un,
der, ty, num, peo, ble, af,
ers, mer, wa, ment, pro, ri,
sen, ture, few, dif, pa, tions,
ther, fore, est, ei, si, ent,
ven, ev, ac, ca, fol, ful, na,
col, par, dis, ern, ny, cit,
po, cal, mu, moth, coun,
mon, pe, lar, por, fi, bers,
sec, ap, stud, gan, bod,
tence, ward, nit, nev, ure,
mem, ters, cov, de, ver, tle,
ber, ar, ma, fa, la, tain,
ning, pic, im, ad, tween,
ger, hap, e, i, y, o,

- Ask your child to read a word from a list that contains words with a vowel team, or two vowels that make one sound. After reading the word, ask your child to identify the vowel team and the syllables in the word. For example, the word teacher has a vowel team of “ea” and two syllables. Ask your child to underline the vowel team and sound out each syllable in the word.

Example: <https://youtu.be/Dh9G2cWYm84>

- Explain the reading rule about doubling the consonant to your child. When a word is one syllable and ends in a vowel followed by a consonant, you have to double the consonant when you add an ending, like -ed or -ing. Create a list of words that follow this rule and add a new ending to each word. Help your child identify the base word and write the word correctly using the new ending.

Example: <https://youtu.be/7d49Jm8X-Gk>