



Building Blocks for Reading Success

Helping Your Child With
Phonics and Fluency



Welcome!

- This presentation was designed to help you:
 - understand why reading can be difficult for some children.
 - learn practical ways to help your child with early reading skills.



You play a very important part!

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. You don't need to be the best reader to help - your time and interest and the pleasure that you share with your child as part of reading together are what counts.

Helping Your Child Become A Reader, US Department of Education



What is Phonics?

Phonics is the relationship between the letters of written language and the sounds of spoken language.



Making the connection

Phonics is simply the system of relationships between letters and sounds in a language. When your kindergartener learns that the letter B has the sound of /b/ and your second-grader learns that "tion" sounds like /shun/, they are learning phonics.

Phonics: The Building Blocks of Early Reading: www.ed.gov/



Why does it matter?


Children's reading development is dependent on their understanding of the alphabetic principle – the idea that the letters and letter patterns they see represent the sounds of spoken language that they hear.



Why does it matter?

Learning that there are predictable relationships between sounds and letters allows children to apply these relationships to both familiar and unfamiliar words, and to begin to read with **fluency**.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/teaching/reading101/phonics>



Your second or third grader still uses "decoding" skills to sound out some words. Most children at this age recognize many words by sight, and this helps them be fluent readers. At the same time, all second and third graders still need to have the "decoding" skills necessary for sounding out the long, unfamiliar words they encounter in books. They also use these decoding skills to help them spell words.




Is English just too complicated?

I take it you already know

Of tough and bough and cough and
dough;

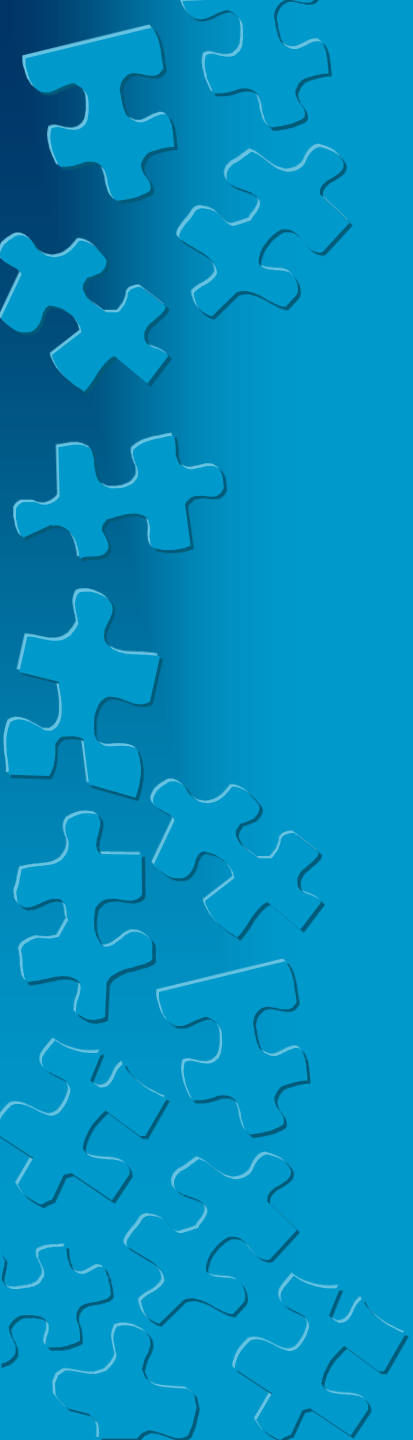
Some may stumble but not you

On hiccough, thorough, slough, and
through



Beware of heard a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like
bird...

Author Unknown



If wee did spel fonetikly,
Wurds miyt look liyk this,
Mayd uv preediktabul
Sownd-spelin korispondensez.



Problem:

26 Letters

44 Sounds

We can't just spell by matching letters to sounds.....We don't have enough letters!!!!

A decorative graphic in the top-left corner of the slide, consisting of several interlocking puzzle pieces. The pieces are white with black outlines and are arranged in a cluster that tapers towards the left edge. The background of the slide is a solid light blue color.

An understanding of Phonics
helps to make sense of it all.



Did you know?

- Fewer than 4% of our words are true oddities.
- 50% of words are predictable by rule.
- 36% of words are predictable by rule with one error.
- 10% of words will be predictable with meaning and word origin taken into account.



Before phonics...

It is important that children understand that words are made up of individual sounds. This is called phonemic awareness.



FIT

- How many letters do you see?
- How many sounds do you hear?



It works like this...

Say the word.

What's the first sound you hear?

The second?

The third?

f

i

t



Now try this...

The word is: FIGHT

How many sounds do you hear?

How many letters do you see?

What's the problem?



Making sense of it...

f i g h t

f

igh

t

A decorative border on the left side of the slide, consisting of several interlocking puzzle pieces in a lighter shade of blue than the background. The pieces are arranged in a vertical column, with some overlapping and others slightly offset, creating a sense of depth and movement.

Following the rules...



Spellings may be determined by
the position of letters in a word.

Spellings for /f/: **fun**, sniff

Spellings for /ā/: gate, paint, gray



Look at the word “sniff”

Why are there two “f” s at the end of the word?

The rule: When a single syllable has a short vowel sound followed by the sound /f/, /l/, or /s/, it is usually spelled *ff*, *ll*, or *ss*.

Example: puff will pass



Analyzing Words

- Work with a partner.
- Read the words on the cards out loud.
- Look carefully at the letter patterns.
- Sort the words into two groups.
- Prepare to explain your choices.



How can you help?

- Involve your child in activities that draw attention to letter sequences.
- Play games to increase exposure to phonic patterns.
 - Switch
 - Bingo
 - Word Sorts



The Alphabet Keeper

... “Where can we hide?” cry the letters.

“Shout loud!” says **c**.

“Loud!” shout the letters, and **c** jumps up and turns loud...
...into

cloud.

The letters sit in the cloud, silent.

Excerpted from: The Alphabet Keeper by Mary Murphy, Alfred A. Knopf, 2002



In Summary...

Phonics is important to reading fluency.

Effective reading skills can be fostered by the ease with which the child is able to make the connection between sounds and letters.



Fluency



What is it?

“Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately and quickly.”

Put Reading First: The Research Building Blocks for Teaching Children to Read
(Armbruster, Lehr, & Osborn, 2001)



Why does Fluency matter?


Because non-fluent readers focus much of their attention on figuring out words, they have less attention to devote to comprehension.



Most second and third graders are becoming smoother, more efficient, more fluent readers.

They begin to read faster, to read in meaningful phrases as opposed to word-by-word, and to read with greater expression. Their reading begins to resemble normal speech. Becoming a fluent reader is important because fluent readers tend to read more on their own and tend to understand more of what they read.

Phonics: The Building Blocks of Early Reading: www.ed.gov/

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- Accurate and fluent word recognition depends on phonics knowledge. The ability to read words accounts for a substantial proportion of overall reading success even in older readers.



Repeated practice increases skill in many areas...

- Playing a sport
- Playing an instrument
- Driving a car
- Keyboarding

Reading works the same way!



How can you help?

- Begin at the beginning!
 - letters
 - sounds
 - letter patterns
 - words
- Choosing what to read
- “I do, we do, you do.”



In your activity packet:

- Dolch Sight Words
- Generic Game Board
- Sample Switch Games
- Sample Bingo Boards



Wrap-up

- Questions?
- Evaluations
- Thank you!

Thank you!

For more information on scheduling
workshops, contact Ivy Ulrich-Bonk at
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