

Phonics

Reading is dependent on an understanding of the alphabetic principle — the idea that letters and letter patterns represent the sounds of spoken language that are blended together to make words. Children learn letter sounds and apply these predictable relationships between sounds and letters to read words that are both familiar and unfamiliar; they then build their skills to use knowledge of word parts including prefixes and suffixes like re/–ness/–ing, and syllables to decode words. Phonics activities provide practice in letter–sound correspondence, blending, and reading words with various letter–sound patterns and word parts. Students must learn to both accurately and fluently decode words so that they can read words automatically and focus on reading for understanding.

Use these activities to reinforce and practice phonics skills with your child.

Title	Suggested Grade(s)	Target Skill(s)	Activity
Personal Dictionary	K–2	Word Categories, Sight Word Reading	Help your child create a personal word dictionary. This is a long–term project that’s fun for rainy or snowy days. Help your child write a letter of the alphabet at the top of every page in a notebook or on separate sheets of paper. Ask your child to write down recently learned words on the page with the corresponding first letter.