

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
Words in the World	K–2	Individual Letter Sounds	Point out the letter/sound relationships your child is learning on food labels, boxes, newspapers, magazines, and signs. For instance, ask your child, “What sound does this letter make?” Practice writing and reading letters and words.