



Helping Your Child Learn To Read

Learning to read may seem magical, but it is about developing reading skills. Children start by learning their letters and letter sounds. Here's a look at some of the basic things students need to know to become successful readers.

Alphabetic Awareness:

A knowledge of the letters in the alphabet, and an understanding that each letter represents a different sound.

Phoneme

These are speech sounds. They have no meanings, but they are the building blocks of words

Phonemic Awareness

The ability to hear and manipulate the sounds in words, and an understanding that words and syllables are made up of a sequence of sounds. An example of phonemic awareness would be recognizing that "man" and "moon" begin with the same sound. Without this skill, it's very hard to learn how to read.

Phonics:

The ability to identify different letter sounds, and to turn those sounds into spoken words or spelling words.

Decoding

The process of blending or combining the sounds of individual letters into words. For example, turning "fffaaannnn" into the word "fan."

Sounding Out

The process of reading words by saying each letter sound without stopping between sounds.

Sight Word Reading

The process of recognizing and reading words smoothly without saying the individual sounds. Some of the first common sight words children learn are words like "I, was, the, of."

Passage Reading

An activity where students read stories to practice their decoding skills so they can become more fluent and accurate.

Fluency:

The ability to easily read words quickly and accurately without much effort.

Vocabulary:

The words children must know in order to read, write and communicate. The more words a child knows, the easier it is for them to learn and understand what they're reading.

Comprehension:

The process of understanding what is being read by relating to the text, extracting meaning from stories or identifying with the experiences being shared.

