

## Word Recognition:

**Phonological Awareness**-This refers to the amount of awareness your child has of the sound form of language. This includes their knowledge of how sounds make up words including syllables, and rhyming words and individual sounds in a word.

Ways to support phonological awareness include:

1. Do activities to help your child build sound skills (make sure they are short and fun; avoid allowing your child to get frustrated):
  - Help your child think of a number of words that start with the /m/ or /ch/ sound, or other beginning sounds.
  - Make up silly sentences with words that begin with the same sound, such as "Nobody was nice to Nancy's neighbor".
  - Play simple rhyming or blending games with your child, such as taking turns coming up with words that rhyme (*go – no*) or blending simple words (/d/, /o/, /g/ = *dog*).
2. Read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems, and songs.
3. Practice the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them and by reading alphabet books.
4. Teach the alphabet, especially the letters in your child's name. Talk about letter and sounds anywhere you see print.
5. Focus children's attention on the beginning sounds in words by finding pictures and objects that begin with the same sound (ball, boy, baby)

**Decoding-** This includes your child's understanding of the alphabetic principle, that is that each letter of the alphabet represents a sound, and those letters are put together to form words. A good knowledge base about the sounds that letters make can help children to sound out or decode the meaning of unfamiliar words. Children can use their knowledge of sound patterns and letter combinations when trying to decode.

Ways you can help with decoding are included:

1. Help your child learn the letters and sounds of the alphabet.
2. Encourage your child to write and spell notes and create cards.

**Sight Recognition-**Some words may be considered "sight words" for your child, which they easily recognize when reading without having to attempt to decode for meaning or pronunciation. These words may include "the", "who", and "what". Sight words typically result from seeing the words frequently in text. Over time, with more exposure to reading materials and practice, many or most words become sight words for skilled readers.

You can help your child develop a strong sight recognition base by doing the following:

1. Read, read, read and point out words as you read!!!!
2. Make game- Bingo, Memory, etc.
3. Put sight words in sentences/phrases to practice reading over and over.