

Supporting Beginning Readers

As children begin reading, they learn by using letter sounds to read words, talking about what they read, and practicing with support. These activities help build accuracy, confidence, and understanding in meaningful ways.



Play “I Hear a Sound”

This game helps children practice changing sounds in words.

Say a simple word and ask your child to change the first sound to make a new word.

For example:

“I hear with my little ear the word... pot. Now change the /p/ to a /h/. What word did you make?”

When your child is ready, try changing ending sounds next.

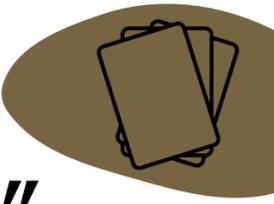
Middle sounds are the most challenging and take time to develop.

Play “Memory”

Write “look-alike” words on cards (for example: sock, stock, slack, sack, sick, stick). Make two copies of each word.

Place the cards face down and play a memory game together. When your child turns over two cards, have them read the words aloud and decide if they are the same or different.

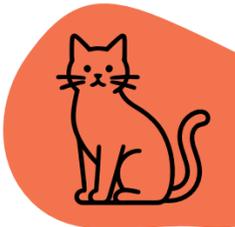
If the words match, they keep the pair and take another turn.



Play with Words

Some early reading words are made up of a consonant, vowel, and consonant (called CVC words), such as cat, bit, and mop. Use magnetic letters to build and read CVC words together.

Change the beginning sound to make a new word and read it aloud. For example: fit becomes sit.

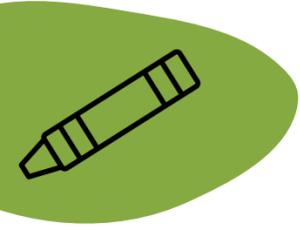


Write a Mystery Message

Write a word or short phrase your child can read using white crayon on white paper.

Give your child a watercolour palette and invite them to paint over the paper to reveal the message.

This activity encourages children to slow down and carefully read each sound in the word.



Read Every Day!

Reading together every day helps your child practice using sounds to read words. Read in your first language and include decodable books your child can read with support.

Encourage your child to sound out words using their letter-sound knowledge. When they come to a tricky word, try prompts like:

- “Let’s look at the letters and say the sounds together.”
 - “What sound does this letter make?”
- After reading, talk about the story by asking simple questions such as:
- “What happened first?”
 - “What happened at the end?”

Invite your child to point to each word as they read to support left-to-right tracking. This helps children learn that words are made of letters, and letters represent sounds.



Speak Like a Robot

As children begin reading, they need frequent practice breaking words into individual sounds and blending them together.

Try “robot talk” using individual sounds.

Say the sounds slowly and ask your child to blend them into a word.

For example:

“What word am I saying? s...u...n.”

“Can you blend these sounds? c...a...t.”

You can also take turns and ask your child to say a word like a robot while you blend the sounds together.

