

Phonics: The Building Blocks of Early Reading

A Roadmap for Learning to Read and Spell

(Moats, 2000: Speech to Print)	Examples
1. Sound Symbol Correspondences (K-1)	
a. Predictable spellings	
i. Consonants	him
ii. Short vowels	wet
iii. Digraphs	chin
iv. Blends	dragon
b. Variant/conditional correspondences (gr. 1-3)	
i. Single consonants	dress
ii. Long vowels	light
iii. R-controlled vowels	bird
iv. Diphthongs	boy
v. Consonant blends	blink
vi. Silent letters	knew
2. Irregular high frequency words (gr. 1-3)	of
3. Compounds (gr. 2-4)	breakfast
4. Syllable Patterns (gr. 2-4)	
a. Closed (short vowel, ends with consonant)	<u>sister</u>
b. Open (long vowel, ends with vowel)	<u>behind</u>
c. Vowel Team (2 or more vowels together)	<u>great</u>
d. Consonant le a the end of words	<u>bugle</u>
e. R-controlled vowel	<u>porter</u>
f. Vowel consonant e (long vowel)	<u>compete</u>
g. Idiosyncratic	<u>atomic</u>
5. Inflections (plural, past tense, grades 2-3)	walk <u>ed</u>
6. Orthographic rules/syllable juncture (grades 2-5)	
a. Final ve	hav <u>e</u>
b. Final doubling of f,l,s, t	guess
c. Change y to I	beautiful
d. Drop silent e rule	com <u>ing</u>
e. Double final consonants	runn <u>ing</u>
7. Homophones (gr. 2-5)	their/there
8. Latin based affixes and Schwa (grades 4-8)	

The workshop presentations and materials from the U.S. Department of Education Teacher-to-Teacher Workshops were developed by various individuals and are being provided as illustrative examples of what might be useful to teachers. The Department is not requiring or encouraging the use of any particular methods or materials in the classroom, and the use of the methods and materials in these sessions does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education.

Phonics: The Building Blocks of Early Reading

Consonant Placement

Articulation	Lips	Lips/teeth	Tongue between teeth	Tongue behind teeth	Roof of Mouth	Back of mouth	Throat
STOP unvoiced voiced	p b			t d		k g	
NASAL	m			n		ng	
FRICATIVE Unvoiced voiced		f v	th th		sh zh		
AFFRICATE Unvoiced voiced					ch j		
GLIDE Unvoiced voiced					y	wh w	h
LIQUID				l, r			

The Vowel Circle

(Capital letter indicates long or tense vowel sound; lower case letter indicates short or lax vowel sound)

Smile

Round

E see

i sit

oo moo
oo book

A make

O vote

e pet

aw paw

a cat

u cup

I time

o fox

Low/open

The workshop presentations and materials from the U.S. Department of Education Teacher-to-Teacher Workshops were developed by various individuals and are being provided as illustrative examples of what might be useful to teachers. The Department is not requiring or encouraging the use of any particular methods or materials in the classroom, and the use of the methods and materials in these sessions does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education.