

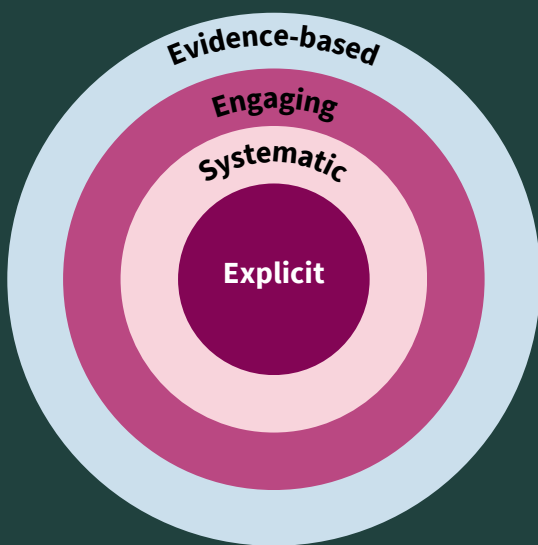
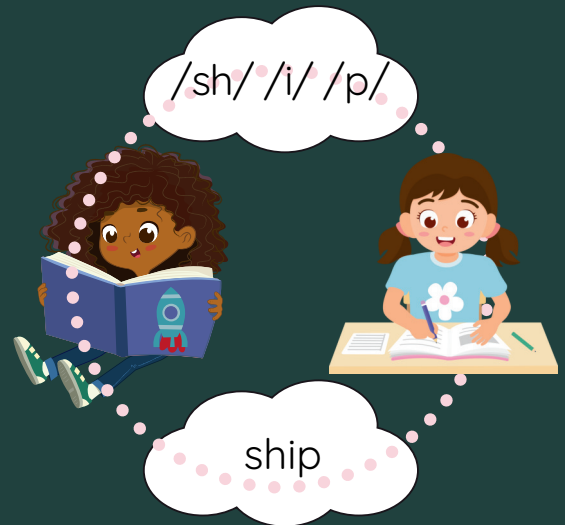


Big Ideas in Beginning Reading

WHAT IS PHONICS?

1 Definition

Phonics is understanding the relationship between letters and sounds, and how to use this knowledge to decode (read) and encode (spell) words.

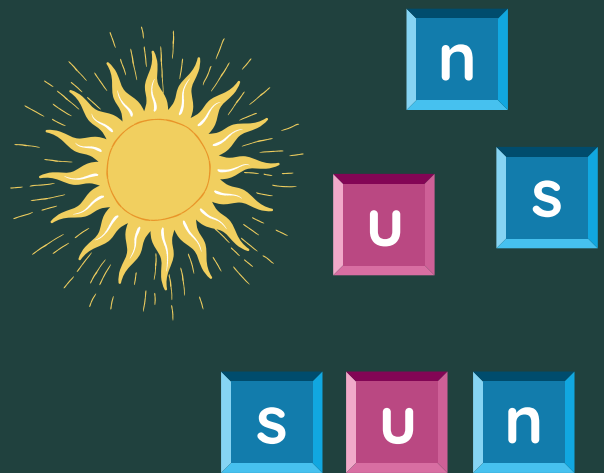


2 Phonics Instruction

- Basic letter-sound correspondence.
- Progressing to more complex relationships for decoding regular and irregular words.
- Key qualities: Evidence-based, systematic, explicit, and engaging.

3 Teaching Phonics

- Start with high utility sounds like /m/ /a/ and /s/ to help children start reading words early.
- Separate letters that sound similar like "b" and "v" and that are visually confusing like "b" and "d."
- Use pictures or objects to associate each letter sound with a word to reinforce learning.



Note: pictures are not used to predict or decode words.



4 Phonics Practice

Allow students multiple opportunities to practice with the sounds that they have learned.

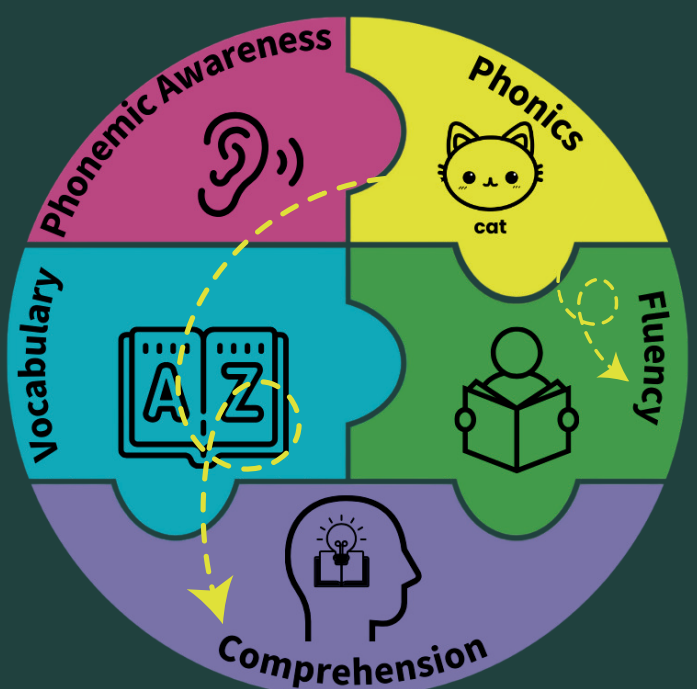
Use multiple modes to help students:

- have them say the sounds
- blend the sounds into words
- write the words down
- move to connected text as soon as the letter-sound knowledge is strong.

5 Why Phonics Is Important

Phonics directly links sounds to print helping children to sound out words and understand which letters to use when writing.

Children who develop excellent phonics skills can focus less on decoding and more on meaning, having a direct impact on fluency and comprehension - which is the goal of reading.



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