

HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD WITH... DECODABLES



WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN I DO?

WHAT ARE DECODABLES?

A decodable text is a text where the words have been controlled for specific phonics skills. It will include multiple words around a skill, such as ai, ee, ch, sh, etc.

Unlike a leveled text or a typical picture book, these texts are designed so that children can successfully read each word. They are an important step in learning to read.

1. Every time your child reads a text, give them a sticker to put on the page (or ask them to write a tally mark). Let them read any text they want, but you will eventually need to "nudge" them to read some texts that don't have many stickers or tally marks!!
2. Have your child highlight the target skills. The target skill is listed at the top. If the skill is ch, they would highlight all the words with the letters ch. Ask your child to read just the words highlighted, before reading the entire passage.
3. Try different ways of reading. You could do an echo read (you read a line, they repeat), choral reading (you read together), or have your child read on their own.

DON'T THEY NEED REAL BOOKS?

You might look at a decodable and think, "This isn't really reading! Children need to read real books!" Let me start by saying the end goal will always be for children to read whatever book they want! But just like we wouldn't expect children to do long division without first learning their basic facts, we can't ask children to read those books independently without giving them lots of practice in basic phonics skills. Decodables may seem boring to us as adults. But for a child who is still trying to learn to read, they are fantastic practice.

Reading authentic stories with and to your child will always be a valuable practice. Those books can help with comprehension and building a shared love of reading.