Reading

Successful readers know how to manipulate sounds. Often times, people think if children know letter sounds and names and have memorized the sight words they will be successful readers. While these are good strategies for the early grades, they become inadequate instantly when children are introduced to vocabulary such as photosynthesis, independence and denominator in the upper grades. The ability to manipulate sounds, called **phonemic awareness** and knowing the **seven syllable types** are the foundational **skills children require** to be life-long successful, independent readers.

The following is a list of pre-reading skills. When children practice and can easily perform these skills, they are well on the road to becoming independent readers. We practice these skills daily in class. The children enjoy it. Some of these skills are on the DIBELS screeners given to every student in K-3rd grade.

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify and manipulate units of sound. It is a foundational skill set critical to becoming a successful, fluent, independent reader. The skills are in ascending order of difficulty.

***Words in a sentence**- Say a sentence. Student counts/claps/steps the number of words in the sentence

***Syllables**-Say a word. Student claps the number of syllables in the word. ex. computer /com/ /pu/ /ter/

***Onset-Rime**-Say a word. Separate any sound(s) before the vowel sound from the rest of the word.

ex. cake=/c/ /ake/ ship=/sh/ /ip/

***Isolation**-Say a word. Ask for an individual sound in the word. ex. What is the last sound in the word mop? /p/

***Identification**-Say a series of words with the same target sound. Identify the sound. ex. What is the middle sound in the words cut, pup, gum /u/.

***Categorization**-Recognize words that belong in a set together. ex. Which word doesn't belong and why? some, house, skip, stop Answer: house because it does not begin with the /s/ sound.

***Blending**-Put sounds together to make a word. ex. What word is this? /j/ /o/ /b/ answer job

***Segmentation**- break a word apart into all of its sounds. ex. What are all the sounds in the word jump? answer /j//u//m//p/

***Deletion**-take away a sound in a word ex. Hop without the /h/ is just? answer /op/

***Addition**-add a sound to a syllable/word. ex. ick add /p/ answer pick

***Substitution**-change a sound in a word ex. bug change /b/ to /t/ answer tug

How can I help my child practice Phonemic Awareness skills?

One of the best ways to practice all these skills is to listen to and enjoy children's music and share numerous Nursery Rhymes and poems.

After you read a story, pick a page in the book. Use the words on the page to go through the skills.

Phonemic Awareness is truly one of the most important reading skills children need to master in Kindergarten.

Kindergarten Reading

The following are all components in the process of learning how to read independently. Encourage your child and provide opportunities and materials to do these activities. You can compare it to when your child was learning how to walk—pulling self on the floor, crawling, standing and cruising around while holding the furniture, walk holding fingers, taking 3-7 steps alone, walking!!! I call these activities Kindergarten Reading. They all play an important part in the process of learning how to read. If your child says, "I don't know how to read." You can say to them they are doing Kindergarten reading. Always protect and encourage the beginning reader, it can be an overwhelming task at times.

- Listening to stories
- Looking at the pictures in a book/magazine
- Making up a story based on the pictures
- Echo reading-repeat what the reader says
- Memorizing all or parts of a story
- Sounding out words
- Independent Reading

What books should I read to my child?

You can read any book to your child anytime. Children can comprehend/understand spoken material grade levels above what they can actually read. So enjoy any favorites you have or remember.

When you go to pick books for your child to read, try to find books with pictures that match the text/words. Try to find books with not too many words on a page. Reading is a learned skill and seeing so many words on a page can be frustrating for both the reader and the listener. Get books on topics your child likes. Having fun while reading is very motivating. The more your child reads the better their reading will get.

Some fantastic authors to check out include:

Jan Brett

Eric Carle

Donald Crews

Tomie de Paola

Mem Fox

Kevin Henkes

Pat Hutchins

Helen Lester

Bill Martin

Mercer Mayer

Laura Numeroff

Dr. Seuss

Ellen Stroll Walsh

Audrey Wood